FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE JOINT COMMAND MEETS 15 JUL

JN161700 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Command held a meeting yesterday evening under brother leader Abu 'Ammar. Our correspondent has learned that the participants reviewed the latest developments on both the local and international levels.

PLO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN UNITY STEPS

JN171142 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 July--In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Political Department and leader of the As-Sa'iqah organization, said that attempts to bring about a national Palestinian unity have been stumbling ever since the last session of the Palestine National Council in Damascus last month.

Zuhayr Muhsin said: The national unity march is still stumbling despite persistent efforts still exerted to bypass the negative aspects. Such efforts are manifest in several Palestinian meetings during the 6 months following the council's session.

The Palestinian high-ranking official called for bringing about national Palestinian unity to confront dangers facing the Palestinian revolution.

Muhsin stated that there is misunderstanding with regard to the PLO decision to evacuate southern Lebanon. He added that the PLO has decided only to evacuate the populated cities, not all the south.

Concluding his statement to AL-QABAS, Muhsin called for tightening the Arab boycott against Israel and imposing a boycott against Egypt.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT SENDS SOLIDARITY CABLE TO DPRK PRESIDENT

JN171304 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Cable sent by Abu 'Ammar to DPRK President Kim Il-song on the occasion of solidarity month with the Korean people--date not given]

[Text] Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, on the occasion of the solidarity month with the fraternal people of Korea, I send you, in my name and on behalf of my brothers, the Executive Committee members, the PLO, and on behalf of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, our warmest feelings of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle under your leadership.

On this occasion, we stress to you that we are with you in the same trench in our joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The heroic struggle of your great people under your wise leadership for Korea's sake and its people's triumph against imperialist powers and their tools is greatly admired by our people. History asserts the inevitability of two friendly peoples' triumph against imperialism and Zionism. Triumph is always achieved by those who struggle for their just causes.

BAHRAIN

PAPER COMMENTS ON IRANIAN CLAIM TO BAHRAIN

JN170746 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpts] Manama, 17 Jul--In today's editorial, the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ expressed its astonishment at the statements made by Iranian officials and their threats to interfere in Bahrain's internal affairs, describing them as cheap methods.

The paper condemns statements made by Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Sadeq Rohani to the Iranian press yesterday. The paper says: It is a blatant, shameful and unrighteous interference in Bahrain's internal affairs.

The paper adds: The people of Bahrain have had their say on their fate and future in the presence of the largest international body, and the whole world respected this decision because it is just.

The text of the editorial published in today's edition of AKHBAR AL-KHALIF is as follows: Ayatollah Sadeq Rohani has once again confronted us with his decision as to the fate of our homeland and our people. He said: Iran will again claim Bahrain as a result of proposals made to Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. The ayatollah claimed that there is oppression in Bahrain.

It is natural to hold a calm dialog in any country. In Bahrain, which has adopted the method of objective dialog, every opinion and demand easily reaches the ears of the amir of our country and all officials, and is discussed candidly and clearly. The paper adds: Here in Bahrain we do not suppress any opinion with an iron fist, nor do we oppress or seize what rightly belongs to others. Here in Bahrain, we are one people, one closely knit family, the head of which is our ruler the amir.

Addressing Rohani, the paper asks: In whose interest do you voice your discordant views again? The paper concludes: The people of Bahrain have had their say on their future and fate in the presence of the largest international body, and all the world respected their decision because it is just.

KUWAIT

GOVERNMENT BEGINS EXPORTING LIQUID GAS TO U.S.

LD160834 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0718 GMT 16 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 16 July--Kuwait has begun to export its liquid gas to the United States for the first time in its own tankers, Kuwaiti Oil Ministry sources disclosed today.

The tanker, Kuwait Gas, which is owned by the Kuwaiti Oil Tankers Company, sailed for the United States yesterday carrying a full load of 40,000 tons of gas, sources added.

The journey, via the Cape of Good Hope, will take a month. The tanker, a fast, large one, is one of four such tankers owned by the Kuwaiti company.

PETROLEUM MINISTER HOPES CARTER'S OIL REDUCTION PLAN SUCCEEDS

LD171356 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Kuwaiti Minister of Petroleum Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has stated that he hopes that President Carter will be able to carry out his plan to reduce U.S. oil imports by half by 1990. He told journalists that this reduction is in the interest of the members of OPEC. However, Shaykh Ali rejected accusations of the consuming countries that the OPEC decision to raise prices to between $18 and $23.5 per barrel will harm the world economy. He stated that the decisions, which came into force at the beginning of July, do not threaten the economy of any state.

PAPER COMMENTS ON CARTER'S ENERGY SPEECH

LD170930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0726 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Press review on President Carter's energy speech]

[Text] Kuwait--(?AL-ANBA') has dealt with the speech delivered by U.S. President Carter in which he spoke about the energy crisis. It says: "For the first time in the statement he pointed to those who have caused the crisis, the American people, and did not put the blame on OPEC in general and the Arab countries in particular the way Zionist propaganda used to do."

The paper has called for a conference (?at the highest level between) oil producers and consumers to find alternative sources of energy, because we as an exporting country will be needing sources of energy other than oil during the first quarter of the next century at the most if world consumption of oil continues at its present level.

AMIR CONGRATULATES NEW IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN

LD171350 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] His Highness the amir sent a telegram of congratulations to his brother President Saddam Husayn of the sister Republic of Iraq on the occasion of his election to the presidency and the chairmanship of the Revolution Command Council. His highness also sent a telegram to his brother His Excellency Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on the occasion of his retirement from his official responsibilities, wishing him abundant health and happiness.

New Iraqi Leaders Congratulated

LD171352 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The minister of state for cabinet affairs has congratulated the new leadership in sister Iraq on their new posts. In a statement to KUNA, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said: The fraternal cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq has been a good example of the constructive work between our two countries. They are closely linked in all spheres. He added: We are sure that the growing relations and ties will be consolidated and increase during the term of office of President Saddam Husayn, who played an effective role in establishing these relations during the presidency of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn concluded: We are confident also that President Saddam Husayn is the best successor to lead the Iraqi march for the good of an in the interest of the fraternal Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

QATAR

PAPER WARNS AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION IN GULF

JN161145 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 16 July--In today's editorial, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB warns the U.S. administration that any aggressive move against gulf oilfields will prove destructive for the United States itself. The newspaper affirms that the oil will destroy any aggressive U.S. or other presence in the region. Citing the recent New York TIMES caution against any attempt to execute threats of military intervention in the gulf, the newspaper says: Such a warning reflects truths about the reality of the U.S. administration and the background of U.S. political thought. The newspaper adds that the New York TIMES cautions Americans to realize that, in rejecting threats of intervention and aggression, the states of the region are determined to struggle and confront any U.S. invasion of the oilfields. The paper adds that the U.S. realizes that the states of the region are capable of doing everything possible to abort U.S. plots. Concluding its comment, the newspaper AL-'ARAB reaffirms that the energy crisis is fabricated and that the U.S. administration has motives behind its escalation of the so-called energy crisis.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES FRENCH COUNTERPART 16 JUL

LD161354 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At noon today a closed meeting was held between His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, and Yvon Bourges, French defense minister, at his royal highness's office at Shubra Palace in At-Ta'if. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Jamil al-Hujaylan, the kingdom's ambassador to France, and the French ambassador to the kingdom.

Later an expanded meeting was held between His Royal Highness Prince Sultan and the French minister. It was attended, on the Saudi side, by the commanders of the air force and navy and a number of senior officers, and on the French side by members of the delegation accompanying the French minister of defense and the ambassadors of the two countries. At the end of the meeting His Royal Highness Prince Sultan and the French minister exchanged presents. His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has stated that during the meeting a contract between the two countries was signed for the supply of Crotale missiles--among the most ultramodern antiaircraft missiles--to consolidate the capability of Saudi Arabia's air defense. His Royal Highness added: Discussion of potential arms supplies from France is continuing in the joint committees.

In his statement to SNA, his royal highness said: The talks that took place today between the two sides were very cordial. Saudi-French relations are ideal. They are based on France's attitude toward the Arab cause and the Arab nation.

Khalid, Bourges Meeting

LD161818 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if, 16 July--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges at 1845 today at his office at government palace. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation.

Bourges Departure

LD171232 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--Yvon Bourges, French minister of defense, left At-Ta'if for home at noon today after a 3-day official visit to the kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, and a number of senior civilian and military personalities.

MALTESE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES 16 JULY

LD161428 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At 1245 His Excellency Dom Mintof, prime minister of Malta, left Jidda airport. Mintof was accompanied to the airport by Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister. After the band played the Saudi and Maltese national anthems, his excellency shook hands with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior civilian and military well-wishers.

JAPAN OFFERED SHARE OF INCREASED OIL PRODUCTION

OW170045 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 17 Jul 79 OW

[Text] At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia July 16 KYODO--Hisham Nazir, minister of planning of Saudi Arabia, revealed officially for the first time Monday that his country has increased production of crude oil.

He made this known in a meeting held at a hotel in At-Ta'if with Japanese newsmen accompanying Minister of International Trade and Industry Masumi Esaki on his current tour of Middle East countries.

He said the Saudi Government had made known that it would increase output temporarily when the newsmen asked him whether it was true that Saudi Arabia had increased crude output by 1 million barrels per day.

The planning minister said, however, that the amount of oil produced additionally and the period for increased production have not been decided. Decision on these matters will be decided after ascertaining the demand-supply situation in the world and the extent of funds necessary for Saudi's domestic development, he said. He also revealed that his country did not intend to sell the increased amount produced to specific countries. Nazir said, however, Saudi Arabia would be willing to sell part of the crude produced additionally to Japan if Japan wanted to buy the oil.

As to Saudi's basic oil policy, Nazir revealed that his country wanted to utilize oil as material for producing petrochemical products and not as fuel. For this purpose, he stressed the need for advanced industrial nations to conserve on energy and rush development of alternate fuel sources.

Nazir said he did not know whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would hold an emergency meeting in September to decide on another price increase as reported in some quarters. On Japan's economic and technological cooperation, the planning minister expressed the hope that Japan would take responsibility for the modernization of developing countries.

Prior to his meeting with the Japanese newsmen, Nazir met with Esaki for the second time over lunch Monday. At the meeting, Nazir expressed the hope that the petrochemical project being promoted in his country by the Mitsubishi industrial group be expanded and that efforts be made to speed up the project. Esaki replied that efforts would be made to reply to Saudi Arabia's wishes on the project. Nazir told Esaki that Saudi Arabia was hoping to conclude a contract in October on the project of C. Itoh and Co. and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co. to build a methanol plant in the country.

KING HUSAYN OF JORDAN ARRIVES 17 JUL

LD171204 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of Jordan, arrived in At-Ta'if on a 2-day visit to the kingdom today at 1230. His majesty's welcomers at the airport were headed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent and deputy prime minister. During the visit His Majesty King Husayn is being accompanied by a delegation which includes Prince 'Abdallah ibn Husayn; Prince Faysal ibn Husayn; His Excellency Prime Minister Mudar Badran; 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, head of the royal court; and 'Amir Khammash, minister of the court. The talks between His Majesty King Khalid and His Majesty King Husayn are to deal with the present conditions in the Middle East region and the existing relations between the two countries.

UAE

MINISTER 'ABDALLAH'S STATEMENT ON FRENCH-UAE TALKS

JN161058 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 July--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah has stated that the talks held between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing centered on the energy issue and that the two viewpoints on this issue were similar. In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, 'Abdallah added that the talks also dealt with developments of the Middle East situation as well as the outcome of Arab-European and Arab-African dialog and issues of mutual interest. The UAE minister of state for foreign affairs said that during the talks Shaykh Zayid praised the French stand, which shows an understanding of the Middle East problem and which takes into consideration the Palestinian issue with all its factors; namely, that the rights to the land and the Palestinian people's rights are the cornerstone of the Middle East problem.

Giscard Press Conference

JN161938 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 16 July--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has stated that the good relations that exist between him and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan led him to contact the UAE leader directly, at a time when important issues on world energy and the Middle East situation were being raised. At a press conference he held in the (Al-Musharrif) palace before leaving Abu Dhabi today at the end of his talks with the UAE president, the French president said that the energy issue and the Middle East conflict were the subjects that had been discussed.

He added: As for the oil issue, I can say that we have reached a common viewpoint that will enable us to seek to establish a balance in the oil market. President Giscard pointed out that until late last month, oil-producing countries had doubts about the oil-consuming countries' intentions to limit oil consumption and thus to help the oil-producing countries in setting up a balance in the world oil market. President Giscard said: Agreement has been reached with the UAE president to invite oil-consuming countries for a dialog with oil-producing countries, in order to establish a better balance in the world market. He added that he will resume his dialog with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan during his next visit to the UAE. He said that his talks with the UAE president today dealt with ways of achieving a just peace in the Middle East and with the situation in the world oil market.

The French president explained that both sides believe a balance can be achieved in the world oil market by limiting consumption and by continuing to produce oil to meet demands. He said that the UAE has been supplying France with a large part of its oil needs.

On the resolutions adopted by President Carter for dealing with the energy crisis in the United States, the French president said that he had prior knowledge of these resolutions as a result of the consultations he and President Carter had held on the subject.

He described President Carter's resolutions as being in harmony with those adopted at the Tokyo summit. He added: President Carter's resolutions are positive efforts aimed at establishing a better balance in the world oil market in the future. He continued: They are important resolutions, because the United States is one of the major oil-importing countries President Giscard said: The countries that attended the Tokyo summit must quickly transform their resolutions into practical measures. He asserted that the United States must do its best to implement these resolutions and to achieve their objectives.

President Giscard stressed that two resolutions of the Tokyo summit must be implemented. These deal with the search for a situation where the influence of oil companies on the world oil market will not be extreme and where the measures adopted would be accompanied by a quick alinement of oil prices in the United States to other prices in the world.

President Giscard stressed that just peace will be achieved only through complete agreement among the parties concerned on all the problems connected to the Middle East issue. President Giscard also stressed the fact that any peace agreement must recognize the Palestinian people's rights, solve the Palestinian problem in an equitable manner and return the occupied Arab territories. President Giscard d'Estang said: We believe that as long as these issues are not solved peace will be neither comprehensive nor just. The French president reiterated his country's position on the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the area that will be accepted by everyone. The French president said: French public opinion feels the need to confront the energy crisis. This encourages the French Government to proceed with its economic program, aimed at developing France's alternative energy resources and at limiting energy consumption.

President Giscard concluded that President Carter's measures prove that U.S. officials realize the importance of the energy issue and the need for the major powers to search to find a balanced situation.

AS-SADAT SAYS EGYPT'S EFFORTS BEHIND KREISKY-'ARAFAT MEETING

NC180731 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 18 Jul 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 July--Today's Cairo newspapers highlight the opening of the 16th African summit conference in Monrovia yesterday. The papers refer to the important speech President as-Sadat will deliver at the conference today in which he will emphasize the people's right to self-determination.

The papers show interest in the preconference meetings President as-Sadat held yesterday with a number of African leaders, including eight African heads of state.

Moreover, the papers highlight the statements made by President as-Sadat following these meetings in which he said that all the African leaders he has met with support the peace process in the Middle East.

The papers show interest in President as-Sadat's statements in which he affirmed that Egypt's efforts were behind the recent meeting in Vienna between Austrian Chancellor Kreisky and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and that Egypt had given its blessing to and declared its support for the meeting.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETS UNDER SPEAKER ABU TALIB

NC171400 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly decided at its meeting today under Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib to form a special committee under the chairmanship of its speaker to consider the idea of amending certain articles of the constitution at the request of over a third of its members.

At the request of the government, the assembly decided to defer the answers addressed to the ministers by the members of the assembly.

The assembly heard a report of a special committee set up under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan to study the president's statement delivered at the assembly on Saturday, 23 June, at the opening of the first ordinary session. The report noted the two guidelines contained in the president's statement; namely, the responsibility of rebuilding the state and the Arab and foreign situation, and outlined the committee's views on implementing these.

The committee's report affirmed that Egypt will never reject any Arab step aimed at liberating any part of the Arab land. The report stressed that the Egyptian will and dignity will not be encroached upon or bargained with.

The committee's report praised President Anwar as-Sadat and his ability to rally those capable of understanding and honest strugglers. It conveyed greetings to and expressed appreciation of the Egyptian delegation led by Dr Mustafa Khalil in the discussions for full autonomy for the Palestinian people.

The report said that while the Egyptian people have initiated the peace process they convey their feelings of affection and of peace to all peace-loving peoples in the world.

Egypt, the report said, will not ignore the role of the Soviet Union to embark upon a role showing more understanding for our position, our just cause, our aspirations and Egypt's dignity.

The report said that on behalf of the Egyptian people's representatives the committee decided to respond to President Anwar as-Sadat's request granting asylum to the shah of Iran and his family. This decision implies no challenge of the will of the fraternal Iranian people and no interference in their affairs, but affirms Egypt's ethical and civilized position, and it is within the committee's rights in accordance with the international code.

ANIS MANSUR CALLS AS-SADAT-BEGIN MEETINGS 'BEWILDERING'

LD171443 Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 15 Jul 79 p 12 LD

[Anis Mansur article: "Once Again They Agreed to 'Bewilder' the World"]

[Excerpts] Many serious things happened in Alexandria last week. The week before last we said here in OCTOBER that President as-Sadat's meeting is going to be decisive and that President as-Sadat did not wish to comment on the provocative Israeli statements and declarations made by Begin and his ministers, preferring to wait for this important meeting. The meeting was important indeed.

Writers, television correspondents and journalists were bewildered; As-Sadat is quite satisfied and so is Begin.

But what has satisfied them? They differed on the question of settlements, as they themselves admitted, and also differed on the question of autonomy. But they also denounced the partitioning of Lebanon.

Begin's denunciation means that he does not approve of Sa'd Haddad's independent state, despite the fact that he helps him materially and militarily. The same thing was said at Camp David.

We know that Sa'd Haddad's army includes a number of Christians from the Arab countries who are fighting against the Muslims, and thus encouraging secession and the breakup of an Arab state. This is most regrettable.

As-Sadat has rejected the carving up of Lebanon for this reason. Another reason is because Syria is occupying Lebanon and has designs to annex a part of it. By the same token As-Sadat rejected the division of Chad and Libya's capture of the northern part of the country.

Therefore, journalists were confused over the reasons that have made both men happy, despite their having disagreed on many things and agreed on other things without revealing details of what they agreed upon, or the means of implementing such agreement.

The journalists must wait until Begin returns to Israel and sends a letter to Carter advising him of this agreement.

President as-Sadat's stand this time is quite similar to his stand at Camp David. He declared then that his 90-minute meeting with Carter changed history. Following President as-Sadat's meeting with Carter the world was surprised by a new U.S. proposal. What has As-Sadat said, and what did he agree upon with Carter? How did this make As-Sadat change his mind about packing his suitcase and immediately returning to Egypt? Before returning he decided to let the American people and all the world know what had happened so that the whole world would turn from being a spectator of what is happening to a witness and a partner in the preservation of peace.

This time President as-Sadat twice met with Begin. Begin did not conceal his happiness at this. Begin told his escort, Minister of Youth Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan: Imagine, I have met with President as-Sadat twice and in these two meetings everything has changed. I am quite happy.

Begin told the chief editor of DAVAR newspaper which opposes him, that something more than peace has come about, which means not only peace but something more than peace.

Hundreds of journalists have felt that "Skylab" has fallen on their head. They felt dizzy; President as-Sadat has made them feel dizzy.

What happened between President as-Sadat and Mr Begin was indeed something important.

First, the two men sat together and were quite frank with one another. As-Sadat told Begin: I do not want to hide anything under the table or behind my back. You must do the same thing. I will be frank with you regarding what I want, and what I can do. You do the same thing. We must either agree or disagree.

The subject of the frank exchange was: What is possible, what is difficult and what is impossible?

This was the first time that the two men had a frank exchange with utmost objectivity, sincerity and truth.

Second, the two men reviewed all the difficulties the two countries are facing. Begin reviewed his internal, party, parliamentary and cabinet problems. He realized that President as-Sadat was fully aware of all this.

President as-Sadat reviewed the changes in the Middle East, Egypt's stand toward the Arab countries and the challenges it is facing at home and abroad.

Third, Israel expressed unjustifiable fears in that Egypt, after retrieving Sinai up to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, might ease up and that such an easing up would confirm to the world that all the time Egypt was concerned only for its own land, leaving it to the Arabs to solve their own problems if they can. For this reason President as-Sadat said that the first stage of the autonomy talks must come to a clear conclusion next October and not at the end of the year.

Fourth, Egypt does not interfere in Israel's internal affairs and the allegation that Egypt prefers one leader to another is no more than press speculation or political outbidding. It is up to the Israeli people to choose who speaks on their behalf and defends them and makes their decisions.

One of the signs of joy, the reasons for which are unclear, is Begin's request to President as-Sadat to continue the negotiations in Jerusalem.

But President as-Sadat said: Anything but Jerusalem. You have made the situation impossible by your incessant statements that it is Israel's capital forever, despite your knowledge of Egypt's opinion from the beginning--that Jerusalem is part of the West Bank.

Begin said: Then let us meet in Haifa. It is a Mediterranean port like Alexandria. This was agreed upon.

But everybody is bewildered. What is it that was agreed upon and has made the two men happy and has thrown the whole world into a turmoil? What is it that is going to be decided finally in 6 weeks' time?

This is what the world will learn about at the end of this coming August.

ECONOMY MINISTER AS-SAYIH RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

NC171728 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih returned home today from Bucharest after a visit to Romania, where he attended the 11th session of the Egyptian-Romanian committee for economic cooperation, which ended its meetings on Friday.

In a statement upon his arrival, Dr Hamid as-Sayih said that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has affirmed his full support for Egypt's current efforts for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and expressed Romania's eagerness to promote cooperation with Egypt in various economic and political fields.

The minister pointed out that the joint committee reviewed developments in economic and trade relations between Egypt and Romania. He said that the volume of trade between the two countries reached $300 million during the current year, double the figure for 1978.

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

NC171730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 July--Engineer Kamil Dassuqi, chairman of the Egyptian electricity authority, left Cairo today for Moscow on a 2-week visit to the Soviet Union.

On leaving the airport, Kamil Dassuqi said that he would discuss with officials of the Power and Electrification Ministry in Moscow matters connected with the high dam power station, power conveyance and distribution networks and spare parts requirements.

AKHIR SA'AH REPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET BASE IN PDRY

NC180804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 18 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 July--Quoting reports from Aden, AKHIR SA'AH magazine says today that the Soviet Union is continuing to strengthen its military presence in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula--on the Saudi-PDRY border of all places, where it is secretly building a huge air base in Hadhramaut, near the Ar-Riyan base.

The magazine adds that Soviet military experts from the Khawr Maksarah base are supervising the establishment of a new base. The Aden authorities have moved 25,000 Hadhramaut residents out of their homes to guarantee secrecy during construction of the base and to use the houses as quarters for the Soviet experts and the leftist civilian elements who have been trained in Moscow.

BRIEFS

JOINT CAR PRODUCTION AGREEMENT--Cairo, July 14--Agreement was reached between the Nasr company for car manufacture, Fiat of Italy, Seat of Spain and the Egyptian-Iran Bank to set up a joint project for the manufacture of passenger cars with a production capacity of 34,000 cars annually. The capital of the project at the first stage would be 10 million dollars, which will be doubled to 20 million when the project is completed. The Egyptian company's share in the capital comes to 43 percent, the bank's 27 percent, the Italian company's 20 percent and 10 percent for the Spanish company. Forty percent of the cars will be manufactured locally in Egypt within the first 3 years of production, beginning January next year. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1143 GMT 14 Jul 79 NC]

NEW CITY PLANNED--Qantara East, Sinai, July 14--A new city will be established in Qantar East, 3 kilometres from the site of the present city, the head of the city council, Sulayman al-'Ashmawi, said today. A new tunnel will be constructed under the Suez Canal in the middle sector of the waterway to link Sinai with the governorate of Ismailia, he added. He also said that 2.7 million Egyptian pounds will be allocated to reconstruct the city of Qantara East early next year. The head of the city council pointed out that so far 15,000 citizens have been resettled in Qantara East and a plan will be carried out over the next two years to resettle 40,000 people who belong to the area. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1046 GMT 14 Jul 79 NC]

PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN ADDRESSES NATION

JN172025 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Speech by Saddam Husayn, Iraqi president and Revolution Command Council chairman, at celebration marking 11th anniversary of 17 July 1968 revolution in Baghdad--live]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens, masses of our great people: On this blessed occasion--the anniversary of our people's revolution, the revolution of honest strugglers--I greet you from the depths of my heart. My speech to you today will not be official or traditional. I will not deal with political or general affairs as is customary. It is a special speech from the heart to the great people in great Iraq and to the great Arab nation.

Yesterday you listened to the speech of the father and great comrade, Abu Haytham [Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr]. What his speech described is a unique example among all the experiments in the world. Today I will clarify to you other basic aspects, dimensions and facts of this 15-year experiment.

The transfer of power from leader to leader in the moral and normal constitutional manner that took place in our country, party and revolution is unique among all the experiments in the ancient and contemporary worlds. It is unique but not strange because it emanates from the Arab nation's nobility, the greatness of the message of Islam and the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--the standard bearer of the nation's resurgence in the current age. It is a phenomenon that is compatible with the nature of the 17 July revolution's march in all its details and dimensions.

During the revolution's march, we dealt with the issue of authority as Ba'thists and as the grandsons of those great men who propagated the most brilliant humanitarian messages to the farthest corners of the world and who were glorious models of good breeding, courage and chivalry. In our opinion, authority is not power, dominance and self-satisfaction. It is a burden that we carry to apply practical principles in the service of the people, in support of the nation and in order to end injustice. This concept, brothers, is the result of our party's rich experiment in Iraq, particularly the Ramadan revolution experiment and our party's experiment in the pan-Arab arena. These experiments helped us safeguard this concept and played a major role in fortifying us against error.

While talking to you on this occasion about some aspects of our march and about our relations, I can say that words alone cannot convey the strength of the principles which have inspired us or the genuine character of the militant and brotherly relations we have witnessed during the past years that were filled with bitter struggles, difficult tasks, serious challenges, and intense and comprehensive action in all fields and on all levels.

Brothers, I was one of those who had the opportunity to become acquainted with some important and basic aspects of the experiment of the 1963 Ramadan revolution. The lessons learned from this revolution were very beneficial to us after the forces of apostasy managed to abort the revolution on 18 November 1963. One of the most important lessons that my comrades and I in the command and the party learned was that when dealing with issues connected with authority and its problems, the absence of noble comradely relations and the negligence of values stemming from our heritage will defeat any revolutionary experiment even though it may contain other great and positive aspects.

In our life as Arabs and Iraqis and during our long history, moral and ethical values continue to be an important factor in achieving success and victory.

When through my position in the command I assumed responsibility for building the party after it had been fragmented in the wake of the apostasy, I had a persistent idea that when our party in Iraq recovered its revolution from the apostates, this revolution would have to champion new values. These values should be inspired by a new code of behavior completely opposite to the erroneous and deviate conduct of some elements of the party command. This conduct had contributed to the loss of this great revolution.

I felt dutybound to personify some of these values by staying away from any position of authority and by remaining a mere struggler in the ranks of the party following the success of the revolution which we were planning to stage. I made this decision despite my objective realization that revolutionary responsibility and the purity of this responsibility are not linked only to the phase of secret struggle and do not end in any one stage, whether during the era of struggle or that of building.

Despite my full understanding of these concepts, I found that it was still my duty to further entrench these concepts, and in such cases it was necessary to give a living example. Furthermore, the best example is that provided by the person concerned.

I officially proposed these concepts for the first time during the joint meeting of the Regional Command and the party's Military Bureau in September 1964. That meeting was devoted to putting the final touches on the revolution's plan against Al-'Arif's apostasy.

I told the comrades at that meeting that I would proceed with them until the revolution triumphed and that I would not hold any official post in the state. I asked the comrades to grant my request and to understand the real motives behind it. The heated discussion that took place at that meeting forced me to retract my request, and I ignored the matter until after the revolution had triumphed. However, we did not succeed in carrying out the revolution's plan due to the well-known circumstances at the time. We agreed to call this the incidents of 4 September 1964.

While I was still being held in military jail No 1 at the beginning of 1966, I again raised the issue of not holding any official position. At that time I received a message from Comrade Abu Haytham informing me that according to the evaluations and calculations of the comrades at the command, the revolution's initial preparations had been completed. He told me that the revolution's zero hour would be in February of that year.

I wrote back to Comrade Abu Haytham, praising their courageous action. Once again I reminded Comrade Abu Haytham and the command's comrades of my above-mentioned principles. I asked that they grant my request and exclude me from any official position. I requested Comrade Abu Haytham to raise this issue at the command after the revolution had succeeded. The party did not succeed in its revolution then. However, God granted us success in the revolution of 17 July 1968. You are of course aware of the ambiguities that prevailed between 17 and 30 July. So it was impossible to raise my request at that particular time. The raising of my request at that time would have meant abandoning the duty of struggle which was aimed at placing the revolution on the correct course as established by the party.

Having completed our militant duties of purging the revolution from the suspect clique that had infiltrated into its ranks, I came again with my idea on the evening of 30 July 1968. The comrades, chief among them dear Comrade Abu Haytham, countered me with an absolute refusal.

Although I actually assumed the responsibilities of vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 30 July, it should be mentioned that among the reasons that delayed the complete formation of the council was my desire that my actual responsibility not be officially announced so as to avoid any embarrassment or harm to the march of the party and revolution when the time came to comply with my wish not to hold an official position.

After more than 1 year from that date and motivated by the desire that the party leadership officially assume its real position in the revolution, I had to accept the announcement of the complete and actual formation of the RCC and to proclaim my official responsibility as RCC vice chairman. I did so at the insistence of my comrades, above all Comrade Abu Haytham.

I never stopped thinking about this matter until the end of the summer of 1974. At that time, I made my last attempt to relinquish my responsibilities. That attempt was also met with rejection by my comrades in the national and regional commands as well as in the RCC, headed by Comrade Abu Haytham. Since that date I have felt that it is no longer appropriate to again raise the issue because I have become fully convinced with my comrades in the leadership that after the great strides made by the revolution, any relinquishment of responsibility is bound to inflict serious damage to our march. Thus, the idea has been put away for good.

Brothers, these are facts which many in the party do not know. They were known only within party leadership circles and the RCC. This is the truth, but only part of the honorable human aspects with which and through which we have acted during the most difficult circumstances. This was stressed in yesterday's speech by Comrade Abu Haytham when he talked about the nature of relations among the strugglers in the command of this revolution and the nature of our outlook on responsibility.

We feel that never in history--including the history of our nation, despite its radiance--has it been possible for two leaders within one leadership to remain in power without the occurrence of a serious schism in the moral aspects of the march, without one leader deposing the other, or without losing heavenly values and the radiant and honorable values of history.

Throughout this march we have preserved the values of manliness and honor and have accorded our great and beloved Comrade Abu Haytham all the love and respect that he duly deserves as a man who is sincere to his homeland and nation, and to his party, principles and values. He offered great services to the party, homeland and nation. These services will be recorded in history with appreciation and admiration.

All the intervention and base attempts by hostile forces and all temptations of power and life failed to make us covet the advanced position of authority. If we had done this, we would have alienated ourselves from the principles and values by which we were raised, thus depriving ourselves of the principles of chivalry, Arab ethics and eternal spiritual values.

Brothers, Comrade Abu Haytham has explained to you about his reported requests to step down because of his health. I always took the initiative with our comrades to prevent fulfilling Abu Haytham's desire.

I used to repeat that we must insure that Comrade Abu Haytham stays with us until his last breath because he is a great symbol of struggle. Even when, God forbid, he becomes unable to walk, I said we should raise him on our shoulders so he might stand as a symbol of our principles and so he might remain a living example for us to present to our party, people and coming generations. However, Comrade Abu Haytham persisted this time and his health condition made us unable to dissuade him from his request to resign from all official posts. Thus, we are losing an opportunity that would help us complete the duty to which we have devoted ourselves--the duty to further deepen the concepts that will enrich the revolution's march with noble humanitarian and ethical values.

This is what we have been able to accomplish so far on this course. There is still much time for giving by all the good and honorable [words indistinct]. We thank almighty God for granting us success in shouldering our responsibilities and standing for the principles and values of our great party by which we have been raised. We thank almighty God for helping us preserve these great principles so our people can proceed full of pride, dignity and confidence with their victorious march, led by this party's brave command.

As we express our gratitude to the Almighty, we feel proud that dear Comrade Abu Haytham has added a noble deed to this great march and a glowing point to its honorable record. Comrade Abu Haytham has provided an unforgettable and great example for history. This is something we will always appreciate and admire.

Comrade Abu Haytham has resigned from his official post in the party and the state, but he will remain a great symbol in our hearts. We will remember him as a father, a leader and an honorable man. We will always feel proud of his honorable services which he has offered to the party, the homeland and to the Arab nation during his long militant march. The comrade members of the command and I pray to the Almighty to grant him good health so he can continue with us as a comrade and great father of this generous people. Comrade Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has spent all his life working for the sake of this people's liberty, dignity and victory. Comrade al-Bakr has not spared any effort and has never hesitated to sacrifice for this people who will continue to appreciate and admire his national and pan-Arab services.

I feel proud of and satisfied with our achievements along the path of honor and principles, and I feel grateful and appreciative to Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, Regional Command assistant secretary, and to the comrades in the leadership who shouldered with us this responsibility and this great honor with strong determination and genuine awareness filled with honor, morals and the requisites for moving the revolution toward its objectives.

I told you that I would have a private talk with you and would not deal with political matters and public affairs. These we will talk about, God willing, at another meeting. I am proud of the honor and responsibility conferred on me by my comrades in the leadership of the party and the RCC. I equally feel proud of the love and appreciation accorded to me by the sons of the people throughout the past years during which you have known me in my previous position of responsibility. I pray that God may grant me success in enjoying your feelings in my new responsibility.

In assuming the honor and responsibility of leading the country from the present position, I say to you, honorable Iraqi citizens, that I pledge as a struggler that I will not ask my comrades in the leadership and party and my brothers the sons of the people to carry out any act which I would not want to do by myself.

I will also not make them abstain from doing something I myself would not abstain from doing. I will act inspired by the creed of the party and the Arab nation's heritage and the spirit of heavenly messages.

Our duty is to stand for justice and combat injustice, we will not allow any struggler in the party or any citizen to be humiliated. We will punish the oppressor and come to the aid of right.

I will struggle to be one of the banners, but not the only banner; I will seek to be one of the swords, but not the only sword; I will seek to be one of the leaders, but not the only leader; and I will struggle to be one of the knights among the strugglers of the party and the people, but not the only knight. I will not hesitate to take the initiative and shoulder the responsibility of leading the revolution and country forward and facing the pan-Arab tasks along the road of unity, freedom and socialism. I will take on what is required by the revolutionary initiative from a leader within the framework of collective leadership which gives each struggler his role and dictates his duty to him.

Brother citizens, strugglers in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. This is a pledge before you, the pledge of men and strugglers, a pledge given for today and tomorrow. We ask God to help us fulfill it and to preserve for us the beloved father, leader Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, and give him long life. I also ask almighty God to preserve you, take care of you and grant you victory. May the peace and belssings of God be upon you.

Husayn Interview

LD171501 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Jul 79 p 16 LD

[Reprint of interview granted by Iraqi Vice President Saddam Husayn to London magazine EIGHT DAYS--date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Syria and Iraq are trying to establish joint rule. Do you intend to assume Egypt's role of leader of the Arab world?

Answer: We are not interested in leadership. We want the Arabs to discover the right path, the path of justice and right. We want the Arab nation to rediscover its previous mission, regardless of whether we are soldiers or leaders.

Question: What is the Arabs' mission?

Answer: Twofold: nationalist and humanitarian. By nationalist we mean the achievement of three principal objectives: unity of the Arab nation, the well-being and prosperity of the Arab man and socialism. By humanitarian we mean the common struggle by all peoples for the sake of peace.

Question: So far the whole Arab world says that unity has failed. Why should it succeed this time?

Answer: You are right. But our frequent attempts, therefore, prove that the Arabs believe in unity and expect to achieve it.

Question: How would you visualize the desired Syrian-Iraqi state?

Answer: He will become a single state, a single army, a single Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a single national anthem and a single national flag. Briefly, everything will be a single state.

Question: In the context of foreign policy, unity between Syria and Iraq either means that Syria no longer recognizes Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that guarantee Israel's 1967 boundaries, because Iraq does not recognize these resolutions or that your country--Iraq--accepts Syria's position and stand on the two resolutions, which means recognition, though indirectly, or Israel's right to exist. Which of these two is the correct one?

Answer: The aim of our historical revolutionary step--that is the unification of our countries--is to strengthen the Arab stand. As far as we are concerned, there is no way of retreating, indeed, there is only forward advance. Our unity enables us to protect our rights, whether by force or by political means.

Question: You are one of the fiercest enemies of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Why do you oppose it so much?

Answer: Is there anybody among you who really believes that this treaty between As-Sadat and the Israeli entity is a just treaty? You cannot say that this treaty guarantees Arab rights. Why is this question always put to the Arabs and not to the Zionists? I do not believe that war is always the solution, but I certainly believe that war is necessary and important when the Arabs find no other way. When our existence is threatened, there is no alternative to war.

Question: Why do you refuse negotiations with Israel? After all, the Egyptians have achieved one success: They have taken back Sinai territory.

Answer: Has it really come back? This is only publicity. Previously, the Israelis occupied Sinai by themselves. Today they are there alongside the Americans. Previously they were in Sinai only but today they are in Cairo itself.

Question: But without Egypt the Arabs cannot defeat Israel.

Answer: We do not regard As-Sadat as speaking on behalf of Egypt. Like the majority of the Third World leaders, he came to power through a coup and through a coup he can go. But the people will remain.

Question: The Arab boycott measures have drawn As-Sadat further toward understanding with Israel. What about your neighbor to the east?

Answer: We would like to establish goodneighborly relations with Iran, but we will not beg for such relations. Our policy is as follows: We draw the attention of the new Iranian rulers to their mistakes without seeking to harm them. We are moderate and understand the conditions more. We are enjoying stability because we have a single party while they have numerous factionalized groups.

We have one leader while they have several leaders. Our revolution is harmonious, well organized and disciplined. Their revolution is undisciplined and demagogic.

Question: Are you not afraid of an extremist Islamic resurgence similar to what happened in Iran? After all, you have a big Shi'ite community and Ayatollah Khomeyni spent most of his years in exile in your country.

Answer: Hou would you expect such a movement to take place here. We do not have an emperor dominating the regime. We are not oppressing the people religiously or economically. The Persians had to rely on religion in order to get rid of tyranny.

Question: How should the Iranian rulers behave toward you?

Answer: They must seek to establish good relations with Iraq and the other Arab countries. Why have they chosen Iraq [presumably, for their attacks]?

The Iranians say they want to revive Islam; well, we are not an atheist state and our constitution establishes Islam as the state religion. Iraq is offering men, money and arms for the fight against Israel. If the Iranian rulers oppose us then we must ask ourselves: Why are they continuing with the shah's policy?

Question: Will the Kurds cause foment war between Iraq and Iran?

Answer: We do not think so. But we firmly believe and hope that the new Iranian rulers will realize this: Whoever tries to harm us will be harmed.

Question: The Kurds allege that Iraq persecutes them and is unjust to them.

Answer: If I said the contrary you might not believe me, go north and see for yourself.

Question: What about Iraq's future oil policy?

Answer: We sell our oil to whoever needs it and respects our interests.

Question: Will Iraq increase its oil production in order to ease the energy crisis?

Answer: We can see no possibility of doing so.

Question: But will you increase prices?

Answer: What about the prices of wheat and corn? Of the shorts, clothes and shoes that your country manufactures? The time has come to set a fair price for oil so that both sides will be happy and not just one side at the expense of the other. The major companies have exploited our wealth for a long time and we will not allow this to continue any longer.

Question: But prices in the industrial countries are now soaring madly because of the increase in oil prices.

Answer: You know as well as I that this is not true. The oil price increase is not the cause of inflation. I still propose a mutually satisfactory agreement: We freeze our oil prices and the West freezes the prices of its products. I accept this. We can convince our OPEC brothers to freeze oil prices if the Western industrial states freeze their prices. This is a firm offer. One thing is clear, however; insuring the flow of oil militarily is meaningless. The days when oil used to flow by military means have gone. I do not think anybody in the West wishes to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. In war the goose will die.

Husayn Visits Tank Battalion

JN171243 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] The fighter Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, accompanied by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, today visited the 17 July tank battalion on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the 14 July revolution and the 11th anniversary of the 17 July revolution.

The president was also accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Sa'dun Ghaydan.

On arriving at the battalion's headquarters, Saddam Husayn was received by the commander of the republican guards and senior brigade officers. The president had breakfast with the officers of the brigade.

At the end of his 2-hour visit, the president was seen off by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Sa'dun Ghaydan, and the commander and officers of the brigade.

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN161257 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 July--Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuban vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

During his visit Rodriguez will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on issues related to the nonalined movement and preparation for the coming conference of the nonalined countries leaders to convene in Havana early in September, as well as on issues of common concern to Cuba and Iraq. His talks also will deal with means to strengthen the ties of bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The Cuban official's visit comes within the framework of a tour of a number of the nonalined countries.

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

JN171602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 July--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriquez, Cuban vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, and the delegation accompanying him. They reviewed the articles of the draft statement of the nonalined summit conference to be held in Havana in September. Their views were in agreement on most of the articles of the draft statement. A joint technical committee was formed to study this draft. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Ulwan, several Iraqi officials and the Cuban ambassador to Iraq attended the meeting.

KING HUSAYN LEAVES ON VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA 17 JUL

JN170955 Amman JNA in Arabic 0937 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 July--His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today on a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During his visit he will meet with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials to discuss common Arab issues, recent developments in the area and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The king is accompanied by his two sons, Princes 'Abdallah and Faysal, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of court, and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi ambassador in Amman left aboard the same aircraft.

Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath in the presence of King Husayn and the Cabinet as the king's deputy during his majesty's absence from the country.

HUSAYN CONGRATULATES NEW IRAQI PRESIDENT

JN171916 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent the following congratulatory cable to President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic: Your excellency brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic, Baghdad: On the occasion of your assumption of the presidency and shouldering the leadership responsibilities in fraternal Iraq, I send you our genuine congratulations and pray for your success in your responsibilities as a leader in the service of the aims of the fraternal Iraqi Arab People and the goals of the glorious Arab nation. I stress the solidarity of our two peoples in achieving our joint national goals. May God guide your steps.

DPRK PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SYRIA

JN141819 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpts] The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly delegation left Amman for Damascus at noon today following a weeklong visit to Jordan, during which the delegation met with His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan.

In a statement before leaving Ar-Ramtha border post, the head of the delegation expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan for the hospitality accorded the delegation during its stay in Jordan. He praised Jordan's progress in various industrial, economic and agricultural fields. This progress is bound to build a new society and a better life for the Jordanian people, he said. Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni stated that his Majesty King Husayn has accepted an official invitation to visit the DPRK.

The invitation was extended by the delegation on behalf of DPRK President Kim Il-song. The date of the visit is to be fixed later.

NEW CABINET HOLDS FIRST MEETING UNDER SARKIS

NC171252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Excerpt] The new Cabinet this morning held its first meeting at the presidential palace under the president of the republic.

The Cabinet session was preceded by a meeting which President Sarkis held at 0900 today with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss joined the meeting at 1045. During this meeting a general review of the situation was made.

The cabinet session lasted until 1200. After the meeting, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made the following statements in reply to questions: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what can you say after the first meeting of the new Cabinet?

[Answer] This was the first meeting of the new Cabinet. The purpose of this meeting, of course, was first to convene the ministers and then to discuss the general conditions and the challenges, tasks, and responsibilities facing this Cabinet. The deliberations among the ministers were fruitful and useful. A committee was formed of some ministers under my chairmanship to prepare a draft Cabinet statement, which the government is supposed to present to the Chamber of Deputies for a vote of confidence.

[Question] If we wanted to formulate a motto for this Cabinet, what would it be, Mr Prime Minister?

[Answer] I do not want to talk about mottos. I can only reaffirm what I said when I was entrusted with the formation of the Cabinet. The Cabinet which was formed yesterday will act within the framework of the provisions of the Bayt ad-Oi resolutions in general. Although we recognize that there are many difficulties and many problems facing us at this stage, which may prevent us from achieving all that we hope from these resolutions, we consider these resolutions a good framework for the government's work in the coming phase and consider that these resolutions define the line of government action in the future, the path it must follow, and the aim which we must seek to achieve. We in the Cabinet and outside it must unite in order to achieve the aims to which all the citizens aspire. No two Lebanese people disagree on these aims. The Lebanese do not disagree on the national aims. We all believe in the unity of Lebanon--the land, people and institutions. We all believe in the need to strengthen the legal central authority and all its institutions. We all believe in renouncing violence and the need to use logic and dialog. We all are guided by these principles. We call on all the citizens to support us in this line.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, when will the next Cabinet session take place?

[Answer] It was agreed in principle to convene the Cabinet in regular sessions every Wednesday morning, as was our custom in previous governments. Therefore, the next Cabinet session will be held on Wednesday, a week from tomorrow.

[Question] Will the Cabinet statement be prepared during this period and approved at the next session?

[Answer] Not necessarily. I will call for a meeting of the committee and will discuss the matter. We hope to be able to prepare the final draft of the statement soon, but we do not promise to complete it this week. [end recording]

Sarkis Speech

NC171615 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Excerpts] After the Cabinet session which was held today under his excellency the president of the republic and attended by the prime minister and other ministers, Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar Musayki made the following official statement:

His Excellency President Sarkis opened the meeting by welcoming the head and members of the new Cabinet. His excellency said: The length of time it took to form this Cabinet may have led one to think that a new crisis was about to be added to the series of crises from which Lebanon is suffering. However, Lebanese consciousness and realism have prevailed. This was expected from the beginning. Furthermore, the democratic system under which we live remains the best way to avoid pitfalls and rectify matters.

The system of government in Lebanon calls for a minimum level of agreement among the principal parties, which we have sought to achieve in the formation of this Cabinet. This was one of the most important factors prompting us to be patient for 2 months with regard to the difficulties that accompanied the attempt to form the Cabinet.

While wishing the government success in the tasks it will assume, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the former government for its work and achievements under such difficult conditions as have rarely been experienced by any country.

His excellency the president added: The government must form one single course of action--even if all opinions of the members are not united--regarding all the issues and subjects which will be raised. In my opinion, dialog, the exchange of views and deliberations within this framework will enable the authority to adopt unified and suitable positions. Needless to say, the success of any member of the Cabinet in his field will reflect in the same way on the whole government, and the opposite--God forbid--is true also.

While our ideal aim is to achieve national detente on various levels and in a comprehensive manner, we hope that the solution we arrived at in this stage will be a positive step in preparing the way for the comprehensive and desired detente.

On the basis of these facts, I would like to recall a number of firm principles taken for granted by the government. This is in addition to other facts which we see no need to repeat today, since we have announced them on more than one occasion.

1. The solution of the Lebanese crisis begins with Lebanon itself. Although the reasons for the Lebanese crisis go back to regional or international factors and conflicts, there is no doubt that these factors and conflicts would not have been reflected in Lebanon, if they had been met by a united front, without rifts, in Lebanon.

2. Lebanon has a universal message which it must continue to proclaim.

3. The political, economic and other aspects of life in Lebanon complement each other within the traditional Arab framework based on Lebanon's role in the Arab community, which is that of active member who benfits others and is benefited.

4. For the state to fulfill its task and carry out its role internally and internationally, it must be strong in all departments and institutions; first of all in the army, which is the symbol of independence and national unity.

Concluding his speech, President Sarkis said: I wish each one of you personally, and the team you constitue, every success for the benefit of this homeland, its stability, and prosperity and for the benefit and safety of all Lebanese.

ISRAELI NAVAL ATTACK KILLS 1 PERSON, DESTROYS 2 HOUSES

NC172118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jul 79 NC

[Text] News correspondents reported tonight that one person was killed and two houses were destroyed in the Israeli naval attack on the coast of 'Adlun this evening.

Civilian citizens have reported that two persons were wounded in the shelling of An-Nabatiyah area by the Israeli and Maj Sa'd Haddad's artillery this afternoon.

U.S. ARMS ARRIVE IN BEIRUT 16 JUL

NC180853 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 18 Jul 79 NC

[Text] A U.S. Navy ship carrying military weapons and equipment for the Lebanese Army arrived at the port of Beirut at 0400 today. This consignment comes within the framework of the $42.5 million deal signed between the Defense Ministry and the United States.

The ship will begin unloading this morning in the presence of Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri and senior officers.

INFORMATION MINISTER GIVES INTERVIEW TO BEIRUT MAGAZINE

JN161626 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 July--Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has affirmed that the Syrian political decision to repulse Israel's onslaught against Lebanon is extremely important and has profound significance and effect. The Syrian Air Force will always be ready to prevent the acts of annihilation Israel is conducting in the military circumstances that emerged in the area following As-Sadat's treason.

The minister also affirmed that Syria is waging the entire Arab nation's battle. It will not relinquish a single inch of Arab land and will not bargain over its principles, despite all the effort and sacrifices required. [Words indistinct] pointed out that Syria has supported and will continue to support the legitimate Lebanese authorities in order to safeguard Lebanon's unity, to bring about stability and security, and to help Lebanon destroy all those who collaborate with the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs and who work against the interests of all Lebanese.

The information minister denied that there was sedition in Syria but said that there was an attempt to sow sedition, which was nipped in the bud. The minister added: Those who perpetrated the massacre in Aleppo and several previous crimes of assassination in Syria are trying to repeat the Shu'ubi phenomenon experiment in Islamic history [shu'ubi adherents refuse to recognize the privileged position of the Arabs in Islam]. They are using Islam as a cover to distort the great concepts and teachings of Islam and to vent their rancor against the Arabs because the Arabs were the soldiers of Islam and the commanders of the Islamic conquests. The Muslim Brotherhood party is now trying to play the same dual role: hostility toward pan-Arabism in collaboration with the Arabs' enemies, who act against this nation's existence, and distortion of Islam. The crime committed by the Muslim Brotherhood party in the Aleppo artillery school enraged the citizens, who expressed their loyalty to national unity by condemning this heinous crime.

The minister [words indistinct] that through its steadfast and courageous stand, Syria is expressing the Arab nation's conscience. It is waging this nation's battle with a great deal of patience, courage and sacrifice. As a result of this stand, foreign pressures on Syria are many and varied. Any attempt to create confusion in Syrian society is a direct service and assistance to Israel, while the Arab nation [words indistinct].

A cause for wonder is the connection between the Muslim Brotherhood Party in Syria and the Phalangist and National Liberals gangs in Lebanon. One who examines the activities and deeds of these two gangs in Syria and Lebanon discovers that these deeds serve only one purpose and scheme: to harm the pan-Arabism concept and confuse and weaken Syria in its confrontation with Israel and with the plots to liquidate the Palestinian issue. [words indistinct]

These remarks were made by the minister in an interview with MONDAY MORNING magazine on 10 June [as received], published today. The text of the questions and the minister's answers follow:

Question: What was the outcome of President al-Asad's visit to Algeria?

Answer: The president's visit was very useful and successful. In general all Syrian-Algerian meetings naturally further strengthen Arab solidarity and fraternal bilateral relations. These relations will continue to develop and strengthen. The visit coincided with certain circumstances which put our Arab nation in desperate need of more cohesion and solidarity so as to create a firm Arab front truly capable of facing and repulsing As-Sadat's pact with Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Such a front should also be capable of defending the entire Arab homeland against the current onslaught. Only then will our Arab nation be strong enough to abort this plot which is threatening our existence and future. The intrinsic Arab power we hope for is the only weapon capable of achieving victory. However, this intrinsic power will continue to be unattainable unless we prove our sincerity and commitment to ourselves and our nation. In this respect I can stress that the president's visit to Algeria was successful. There was a fruitful discussion of the means that can lead to creation of the required Arab force and the bolstering of Arab unity in order to further support Arab solidarity, through which we will be able to confront our nation's enemies.

Question: Has a new date been fixed for President al-Asad's visit to Moscow? Or has the visit already been cancelled because of President Brezhnev's unstable health or for reasons connected with Syria?

Answer: The visit has not been cancelled. This was stressed in an official statement issued in Damascus and Moscow. The visit has simply been postponed because of certain circumstances which we are aware of and fully understand. Thus Syria has nothing to do with the postponement of the visit. This visit, however, will take place soon, after a new date has been fixed that is convenient for both the Syrian and Soviet leaders.

Question: In light of the recent air battle between Syrian and Israeli warplanes and after Begin's announced determination to continue strafing Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, what do you believe the chances of war and peace are in the area? Will the Syrian Air Force intercept Israeli warplanes if the latter try to raid Beirut?

Answer: As-Sadat's alliance with Israel, which is supported by U.S. imperialism, has completely blocked the way to a just and lasting peace. This new alliance is a serious threat that will only increase the area's suffering and sacrifice. As-Sadat's capitulation has increased Israel's military ability and thus lessened the pressure on it. This has also greatly contributed to increasing Israel's arrogance and blatant conceit. However, the first step in any political effort aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the area must begin by restoring the balance which was upset by As-Sadat's surrender and alliance with Israel. [Words indistinct] Regarding Begin's statements, I would like to stress that Israel's expansionist tendency will be firmly faced, not only by Syria, but by all peace-loving states as well. In a recent meeting with the Jewish Agency, Begin announced that his warplanes are carrying out humanitarian missions over southern Lebanon.

By humanitarian missions, Begin meant the war of annihilation he is launching against innocent Palestinian and Lebanese citizens in southern Lebanon. Begin's statement is a blatant and bitter disavowal of all international resolutions and of human conscience. Given this Israeli arrogance and the determination to further escalate the war of annihilation against our Palestinian and Lebanese brothers, Syria made the political decision to intercept the enemy's warplanes and to prevent them from carrying out their barbaric missions. This Syrian decision has shaken the world's conscience and has made the world aware of the barbaric Zionist crimes in southern Lebanon. It also explicitly expose the Israeli allegations about achieving a treaty, signed at Camp David, for peace in the Middle East. Despite what they falsely call a peace treaty, Israeli warplanes continue to drop tons of bombs on innocent people in Lebanon and under this [words indistinct] Israel continues to receive unreserved U.S. financial and military support, which enables it to further escalate the aggression in southern Lebanon. Moreover, this U.S. support can only increase Israel's arrogance and its blatant challenge of legitimate international forums. Facing all this, Syria made the political decision to confront Israel's attacks on Lebanon. This important and extremely significant decision is based on very specific calculations and is in line with the overall goal. The Syrian Air Force will continue its readiness to prevent or put a stop to the war of annihilation launched by Israel, in light of the new military circumstances in the area which resulted from As-Sadat's treason. The Syrian decision is a real demonstration and translation of the unity of the Arab cause and the Arab struggle. It also expresses the Arab people's unity in confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

The Syrian pilots took part in the aerial dogfight under disadvantageous military conditions. They fought the enemy's F-15's under very difficult circumstances but were still able to shoot down two enemy planes. Our pilots thereby proved to the entire world that the Arab nation will not yield, regardless of pressure. Syria in particular, while fighting the Arab nation's battle, will not relinquish even one inch of Arab land. Syria will hold to its principles no matter how great the price, the effort and the sacrifce prove to be.

Question: Does Syria favor the convocation of an Arab summit conference to discuss the war and peace potentials in the Middle East?

Answer: It was agreed unanimously during the ninth Arab summit conference to meet annually in October. However, any meeting among the fraternal Arabs would be most useful and welcomed.

Question: Is it true that the Syrian-Iraqi unity march has stumbled, and if so what is the alternative?

Answer: Steps within the unity march between fraternal Syria and Iraq are being completed every day. The Higher Political Committee's recent meeting was positive and successful. At this meeting, the two sides defined the basic principles of the constitutional framework upon which the two countries' unity will be based. The unity action between Syria and Iraq is continuing both seriously and practically. We all want to insure that each step we accomplish provides a good foundation for the next larger step, because we must take into consideration all previous unity attempts and past experiences. We want our work to be ideal. Therefore, the process of bringing these steps to fruition does not mean that we are stumbling and the seriousness and practicality we are showing does not mean that we are stopping. On the contrary, it means that we are taking enough time because we care so much and are sincere in our efforts to achieve this unity.

Question: When will the defense, economic, political and information committees meet?

Answer: The committees set up by the Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee are continuing their studies and discussions of all matters with a united spirit. These committees meet when necessary and contacts among officials on these committees are taking place daily. We are working far from the clamor raised by the information media. We do not want our measures to be taken under the pressure of subjective circumstances and thus be immature and adopted in haste. We want unity between the two countries, and we are seriously and sincerely proceeding along that road. We are not in any hurry to announce anything before its proper time.

Question: A Soviet official has told MONDARY MORNING that the Soviet Union is now supplying Syria and Iraq with their arms requirements. Has the Soviet Union replaced the planes lost over southern Lebanon?

Answer: Syrian-Soviet relations are good and are based on sound foundations, close friendship, mutual trust and respect. Contacts between the two countries are continuing in the service of our mutual objectives and so as to strengthen the just Arab position and increase our defensive capabilities in confronting the U.S. arsenal in occupied Palestine.

After As-Sadat removed Egypt from the confrontation battle, Syria raised the slogan of the strategic balance with Israel. All our efforts are aimed at achieving this objective so as to check Israel's aggression and deter its attempts aimed at expansion. The realization of this objective will create the appropriate circumstances for discussion of a formula that will lead to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the area. It will be useless to talk about a just peace if Israel continues its arrogance and military conceit.

Question: Are the rumors about the existence of a red line between the Syrian and Israeli forces in Lebanon true? Is it a fact that this red line and the international equation do not allow SAM missiles to be brought into Lebanon to protect Lebanese airspace?

Answer: If there is any red line in southern Lebanon beyond which Syria will not allow Israel to go, it would be the armistice line between the Lebanese Republic and the Israeli enemy.

Question: It has been mentioned that Israel is cooperating with Sham'un and Al-Jumayyil to confront the new Lebanese Government. What is your comment?

Answer: The collaboration of certain parties in Lebanon with the Zionist enemy is not in the interest of all the Lebanese people. Through this collaboration, Israel seeks to increase the isolation of those who agreed to deviate from Lebanese legitimacy and to be antagonistic toward Lebanon and its people. Israel does not collaborate or cooperate with anybody unless such cooperation serves its interests for expansion. Such cooperation contradicts the interests of every Arab country and every Arab citizen in the Arab homeland, regardless of his religion or affiliation. Suspending cooperation with Israel not only constitutes an element that will help achieve a sincere Lebanese reconciliation but will also guarantee the future of those who have been blinded by hate and have even forgotten their personal interests.

We support the legitimate Lebanese authorities in their efforts to safeguard Lebanon's unity, security and stability, and to help Lebanon wipe out all those who are collaborating with the enemies of Lebanon and of the Arabs against the interests of all the Lebanese. No one who is anxious to maintain Lebanon's unity and protect its future can extend his hand to the enemies of Lebanon and the enemies of national reconciliation, because this reconciliation must be established and entrenched. Such reconciliation cannot be established while Israel remains able to talk to some Lebanese parties. Israel will use this as a weapon to prevent the establishment of such reconciliation and to explode the situation in Lebanon whenever the possibility for detente appears.

Question: Has the government succeeded in suppressing the sedition which the Muslim Brotherhood tries to kindle in Aleppo? Who is behind the Muslim Brotherhood?

Answer: There was no sedition but an attempt to kindle sedition. This attempt was nipped in the bud because those who sought to instigate it were executing a foreign plan directly linked to Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Those who have wagered and are still wagering that there will be sedition in Syria are in fact deluding themselves and are talking about hatred as a figment of their imagination, namely, that such sedition can take place in Syria. This is because the Syrian citizen, as a result of his experience and awareness, is always capable of differentiating between what is beneficial to the homeland and what could directly serve the country's enemies. Experience has molded Syrian society and formulated its national values and concepts. It is an extremely cohesive society. Its concepts have greatly strengthened its national unity.

The crime perpetrated by the Muslim Brotherhood at the Aleppo artillery school has inflamed the feelings of the people which were demonstrated by their national unity to denounce the crime and by calling on the government to strike swiftly and firmly at the Muslim Brotherhood--an organization which serves the interests of the enemies of the Arab nation. Thus they are Muslim traitors and not Muslim brothers. Their presence is one of agents and an extension of the schemes of the homeland's enemies. Hence there was no alternative but to strike at this organization and to crush its armed criminal gangs. The hand of justice will reach those members of the gang who have fled and are in hiding. Our people will not be merciful to them at all.

They have distorted the shining side of the great Islamic religion which generated Arab strength and was the overriding factor in bringing about the existence of the Arab nation as a nation. Those who perpetrated the massacre in Aleppo and before that carried out several assassinations in Syria are in fact repeating the experience of the Ash-Shu'ubiyah movement in Islamic history--whose adherents embraced Islam to distort its great concepts and teachings and to vent their hatred against the Arabs, who were the soldiers of Islam and the commanders of the Islamic conquests. The Muslim Brotherhood is now trying to carry out this same dual role; namely, to be hostile to Arab nationalism and to cooperate with the enemies of the Arabs against the Arab nation and to distort Islam and falsify its concepts and teachings. Islam is the religion of struggle against the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims. It is a religion that requires every Muslim to mobilize all his energies to defend Arab lands against invaders.

In our campaign to apprehend the members of the gang we not only seek to eliminate these crininals from Syrian society, but primarily we want to repulse this Ash-Shu'ubiyah attack that is trying to distort Islam and obliterate its noble revolutionary essence. We in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party have in the past fought in defense of the Arabs and Islam against this gang. We were able to isolate them from the masses and then we were able to prevent them from misleading our people in the various stages of their struggle. We dealt them a fatal blow when they were the backbone of the secessionist rule. This was achieved by the Ba'th Party's revolution of 8 March 1963.

The Muslim Brotherhood Party has always served the forces that did not want to secure the Arab homeland's progress and unity. They have always been the epitome of reactionary forces that do not act out of any patriotic considerations in their political work, but carry out orders that come from abroad. The public trials of several members of the Muslim Brotherhood who committed crimes against citizens in Syria have showed that they received orders to implement a policy of violence and terrorism at the end of 1975. They began to carry out their new criminal policy at the beginning of 1976. This date has great political significance in Syria and the Arab region because it coincides with the U.S. imperialist scheme to divide the Arabs, strike at their solidarity, remove Egypt from the confrontation battle and to fragment Arab society from within.

On 1 September 1975, the Sinai agreement was signed and was strongly opposed by Syria. Events have shown that this agreement was the beginning of the conspiracy and the cause of the eruption of events in Lebanon. At that time, the Muslim Brotherhood was ordered to carry out criminal acts against the Syrian society and (?leadership), in order to preoccupy Syria and prevent it from shouldering its pan-Arab responsibilities. Thus, this party's link with U.S. imperialism and Israel needs no further proof. In its steadfast and courageous stand, Syria expresses the Arab nation's conscience. It is waging this nation's battle with a great deal of patience, courage and sacrifice. The foreign pressures on Syria as a result of this stand are many and varied.

Any attempt to create confusion in Syrian society is a direct service and assistance to Israel in everything it is doing against the Arab nation. A cause for wonder is the connection between the Muslim Brotherhood Party in Syria and the Phalangist and national liberals gangs in Lebanon. One who examines the activities and deeds of these two gangs in Syria and Lebanon discovers that these serve only one purpose and scheme: to undermine the concept of pan-Arabism and to attempt to confuse and weaken Syria in its confrontation with Israel and with the plots to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

This explains the support of the Phalangists and the National Liberals in Lebanon for the deeds of their accomplices in Syria, as well as their support in the information and political fields.

Another fact worth mentioning is that the members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria claim that they are upholders and standardbearers of Islam, while they are distorting and damaging Islam with their crimes. At the same time, the Phalangists and National Liberals in Lebanon--the Christian brotherhood--claim that they are the upholders and standardbearers of Christianity, while they are fighting against the values of Christianity and damaging the nobility of these values in everything they do. Thus, the deeds of these two gangs in Syria and Lebanon serve Israel in its hostility toward both Islam and Christianity and in its realization of the gravity of national cohesion in both Syria and Lebanon--a cohesion that is saturated with the noble values of Islam and Christianity--in confronting its racism and its attempts to expand its domination over the Arab homeland.

The battle is one. It is waged by [words indistinct] Arabs everywhere against Israel, the distorters of Islam and Christianity and the executors of Israel's will and its allies.

Question: What is your opinion of the redesignation of Al-Huss to form the new cabinet? Will he succeed?

Answer: We in Syria wish Dr al-Huss success. He is worthy of this, thanks to his efficiency, patriotism and concern for the unity of the Lebanese land and people.

Question: Does the Muslim Brotherhood have an extension outside Syria?

Answer: All Arabs, with the exception of the agent Egyptian regime, have condemned the Muslim Brotherhood party's crime. They linked them with the foreign pressures against Syria. Furthermore, the Arab information media played a noble role in exposing the objectives of the Zionist campaign to distort Syria's role and incite sedition in Syrian society. The Arab information media--which support us against the military alliance among As-Sadat, Israel and the United States and which are waging the battle with us in repulsing this alliance--showed a high awareness and deep sense of responsibility. As was expected, the only exception were the information media of the Phalangist and National Liberal gangs in Lebanon and a trivial magazine published by the Muslim Brotherhood organization in Kuwait. They attacked Syria, sharing in the imperialist campaign against it and defending the criminals and murderers.

The two groups serve neither Arab nor national interests in anything they do. The common ground between them is hostility toward Syria and rancor against its pan-Arab principles. This common ground brings them together despite the divergence in their methods and slogans. They are inspired by animosity toward the Arab nation, rancor against Arabism and by the scheme to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

Syrian justice will chase the fugitives with all means, wherever they are, because those who participate in murders should receive their just punishment wherever they are and whatever position they have reached.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS FOR OAU SUMMIT

LD171756 Algiers APS in English 1532 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jul (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, left here this morning for Monrovia to attend OAU summit, he declared at the shows [as received] Algeria's determination to continue its policy aimed at cor olidating the Organization of African Unity in achieving efficiently its role at the services of African peoples' [word indistinct] for freedom, peace and progress, evoking the multiple [words indistinct] Algeria lately by heads of state started by Liberia's President, William Tolbert. Mr. Bendjedid affirmed that these visits are the proof of the importance African states gives to Algeria, which will remain faithful to its principles and to the sacrifices of its martyrs'. Algeria will not spare any effort to contribute to the conference's success, inspired by the spirit of OAU'S Charter and its resolutions concerning African peoples' right to self-determination, independence, their right for controlling their national wealth, and for progress and prosperity of their children.

Algeria, which faced a bloody war to recover its freedom and to edify an independent state, the president adds, understands perfectly dimensions of peoples' struggle for deciding of their own destiny, and will give it's complete support to liberation movement.

Algeria is not [word indistinct] in any conflict whatsoever, and is totally available, Mr. Bendjedid says, to contribute in whatever can establish just peace insuring African peoples in flight, [as received] their dignity, freedom and legitimate rights.

It is our duty to counterattack the weaving of manoeuvres in the north and in the south aimed at replacing the traditional colonialism by a neo-colonialism indulged in looting our national resources and impeding the progress of our peoples, and harmony between our countries, Mr. Chadli said in conclusion.

The president, who has accompanied by an important delegation, was seen off at the airport by Mr Rabah Bitat, People's National Assembly president; Mohamed Yahiaoui, FLN coordinator; Abdelghani, prime minister; and the other members of Politburo, and diplomats to Algiers.

ASH-SHA'B ASSAILS SENEGALESE PRESIDENT'S AFRICAN POLICY

LD131259 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jul 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Who is Benefitting?"]

[Text] Attention is now focused on the Monrovia conference where the Western Sahara problem tops the agenda of the OAU ministerial council meeting after certain ambiguities involving this problem have been removed and the special committee set up by the Khartoum conference recognized the Saharan people's right to self-determination, thus putting the case in its true perspective as a case basically concerned with the liquidation of colonialism.

While the Saharan people have established their presence vis-a-vis the invaders and broken the siege situation surrounding their case in the African and international arenas, Senghor's voice was once again raised in Dakar not only to deny the Saharan people's existence as he did before but also to accuse the POLISARIO Front of "exercising racism and killing blacks."

The Senegalese president's choice of this time in particular to confirm his hostility to the African national liberation movements in general and to the POLISARIO in particular reflects the bitterness being felt by the "sage and poet" whom the continent recently ignored and with whose services it dispensed because of its awareness of the actual role he has been, and still is, playing as a faithful guardian of the colonialist and imperialist forces in Africa.

In addition to Senghor's isolation at the African level there have been increasing calls in Senegal demanding that he liquidate the foreign military presence and end the country's total subservience because the country has become a base for launching aggression against other African peoples, beginning with the Saharan people. There has also been greater support for the Saharan problem among the democratic forces and this now constitutes a great danger to the future of Senghor's regime.

Exploiting skin color (the only racial element the Senegalese president has in common with some of the African masses) in order to distort the Saharan people's struggle, is a flimsy excuse and subterfuge--now exposed--to which the "sage" is resorting as part of his efforts to support his ally in Rabat and to divert attention from a case which has become a major preoccupation for Africans and their organization in that they are seeking a just solution for it in accordance with the OAU Charter and resolutions.

As for Senghor's talk about racism it would suffice to remind him that he is advocating opening a "dialog" with Pretoria and Salisbury leaders whose official and declared constitutions are based on racialism. It would also suffice to remind him that he is playing host to the most renowned agent of racist regimes in Dakar, namely Savimbi, who is leading a movement which, as he admits, is financed by the U.S. intelligence with the aim of striking at the progressive regime in Angola.

"Negroid" has become a rich source from which the Senegalese poet is drawing in order to boost his "cultural" credit that has brought him fame among affluent and rich societies.

But, unfortunately for the Senegalese president, the Africa peoples have discounted the color factor as a criterion for those supporting their just causes and who have become aware that struggle for rights has no color, that the difference between one struggler and another is measured only by the difference in the degree of struggle in defense of peoples' freedom and independence, and that agentry is not a monopoly of the whites.

It remains to be noted that Senghor has once again given voice to his accusations on the eve of the biggest summit gathering in Monrovia, which goes to reveal the intention of the author of such accusations to hinder the work of this gathering so that it will not come out with resolutions that would expedite the liquidation of the remaining colonialist pockets in and around our continent.

We would like to ask here: Which is the party that will benefit from President Senghor's accusations against the Saharan strugglers?

Certainly they are the forces of colonialism and imperialism that are strongly resisting all the African liberation and unity movements and are resorting to every means to create rifts and divisions such as skin color, religion and language.

LIBYA

STATEMENT RELEASED ON DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH IRAN

LD172205 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The following press statement was released in Tripoli and Tehran:

Following the continuous fraternal contacts between officials in the provisional government of the Iranian Islamic Republic and their Libyan brothers and colleagues, and following the recent visit of the Jamahiriyah's envoy to Iran and his meeting and talks with officials of the Foreign Ministry of the provisional government of the Iranian Islamic Republic it has been decided that an Iranian delegation will visit Libya in the near future at the invitation of the Jamahiriyah to complete consultations on establishing diplomatic relations, and afterward, to take the necessary measures to open two diplomatic missions in Tripoli and Tehran representing the two countries.

AZ-ZAWI INTERVIEWED BY AMMAN AD-DUSTUR

JN171347 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 79 pp 1, 17 JN

[Excerpts] Muhammad az-Zawi, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, left Amman yesterday at the end of a short visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a message to King Husayn from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In a predeparture statement, Muhammad az-Zawi, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, told an AD-DUSTUR correspondent that President al-Qadhdhafi's Arab tour was like a mobile Arab summit conference aimed at further developing joint Arab action and securing a firm Arab boycott against the Egyptian regime. Az-Zawi stressed that all leaders of the states which President al-Qadhdhafi visited underlined the need to strengthen the joint Arab action and further isolate the Egyptian regime. He said that the few coming months will witness the fruits of President al-Qadhdhafi's tour.

Regarding Libya's stand toward the Kuwaiti call to hold an Arab summit conference, Az-Zawi said that Libya favors the convocation of an Arab summit conference. Such a meeting is very necessary at present in order to further strengthen the Arab ranks and repulse the Camp David parties' designs. Such a meeting will also be requested to mobilize all Arab capabilities to serve the Arab nation's battle. He stressed that there is unanimous Arab agreement to hold an Arab summit conference.

Asked about the suggested agenda of the proposed Arab summit conference, Az-Zawi said that if the Baghdad summit's resolutions formed the minimum acceptable by all Arabs to repulse the settlement treaty between Israeli and Egypt, then the forthcoming summit must take initiatives and mark the beginning of an active confrontation of the plot. This could be done by further supporting the steadfastness front consisting of Jordan, Syria and the PLO.

Furthermore, the Arabs are requested to coordinate their efforts in order to abort the big conspiracy in southern Lebanon and, most of all, end marginal differences between the Arabs.

Asked about Jordanian-Libyan relations, Az-Zawi emphasized that Libyan-Jordanian relations and cooperation are developing in various spheres. The Libyan revolution's relations with others are based on the firm principles of repulsing and confronting the imperialist-Zionist schemes and the capitulatory course as well. Hence, Jordan's position, represented in its king, government and people, are highly appreciated by Libya and its leader. We highly praise Jordan's steadfastness, because this country forms the main gate leading to the emancipation of the occupied territories.

Asked about the Iranian-Iraqi relations and its impact on the Arab cause and whether Libya is exerting any efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, Az-Zawi said: Libya will spare no effort to solve the Iraqi-Iranian differences and secure good bilateral relations, for we are in the middle of a fateful battle and in need of Iraq's participation in the battle. Furthermore, the Arabs will need the Iranian revolution's support.

When asked about the Libyan stand regarding the missing Imam Musa as-Sadr, Az-Zawi answered: I would like to stress that this issue is always raised haphazardly by the hostile forums in order to divert attention from the Arab nation's main and basic issue. The issue of the imam is also used as a weapon to split the cohesion of the Iranian and Libyan revolutionaries. This is understandable because the cohesion of the two revolutions threatens U.S. imperialist interests in the area. Once again I would like to underline the fact that there is no disagreement between us and Imam as-Sadr. Imam Musa as-Sadr came to Libya at an official invitation. He was frequently seen in Libya particularly at the night of the September Revolution's celebrations. Suddenly he left on board an Italian plane. He was seen off by the Mauritanian ambassador to Libya as well as by other officials and by a representative of the Arab Affairs Department.

Asked whether a date has been fixed for President al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Iran, Az-Zawi said: There is nothing that might hinder this visit. The two revolutions' viewpoints are identical particularly regarding the Palestinian issue and supporting Palestinian resistence. The two revolutions also condemn and reject the U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat treaty. However, due to the current conditions in Iran and the preparations for the permanent constitution and elections, it will be more convenient to delay this visit until the end of this phase.

Az-Zawi stressed that Libya places great hope on cooperation with Iran, with all Islamic states and with the nonalined countries as well in order to serve our sacred cause. Az-Zawi said that President al-Qadhdhafi will visit several European states after attending the forthcoming nonalined summit conference in Cuba.

MAURITANIA

PRIME MINISTER HEYDALLA DEPARTS FOR MONROVIA

LD171750 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Summary] Nouakchott--The Mauritanian prime minister, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Heydalla, left Nouakchott for Monrovia on Monday.

He will represent Mauritania at the OAU summit and will be heading a delegation comprising the ministers of justice and rural development and the minister of foreign affairs, who is already there.

MOROCCO

HASSAN INTERVIEWED ON DECISION NOT TO ATTEND OAU SUMMIT

LD172210 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The French journalist Edouard Sablier conducted an interview with his majesty the king which was broadcast this evening over French radio. Here is the full text of the interview, which Edouard Sablier introduced as follows [read by announcer]:

On 9 July the king of Morocco, Hassan II, declared on the occasion of his 50th birthday: I am prepared to go to the summit conference in Monrovia provided that it is also attended by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. It is common knowledge that the OAU conference in Monrovia will examine the problem of the Sahara which exists between the two countries. President Bendjedid stated that he would make such a trip. This effort by him appeared at first to be within the line of the policy of detente which Houari Boumediene's successor has begun to pursue. It was hoped that a meeting would take place which would result in a settlement to this war of attrition [word indistinct] between Rabat and Algiers. But a disturbing report came today from Morocco to the effect that King Hassan has decided not to go to Monrovia. Immediately I went to Ifrane where the Moroccan king is now staying so that I could put this question to him.

Question: Your Majesty, why did you change your mind about this trip to attend the summit conference in Monrovia?

Answer: For a dialog to be opened there must be at least two people; although all my colleagues, the heads of state who will either attend the meeting of the OAU or be represented at it, desire peace in this part of Africa, it is becoming increasingly clear that the people mainly concerned, namely the Algerians--led by the President of the republic, Chadli Bendjedid--do not share this desire. This is regrettable. We did at least hope to discuss the initial difficulties concerning the problem awaiting the solution of the rest of the problem.

But at 0600 on Saturday 14 July gangs set out from(?Qoum Lashar) from the other side of the border, over which there is no dispute between ourselves and Alberia, in about 70 jeeps and attacked the village of Foum el Hassane. The attackers were repulsed in a violent manner. But before they fled they carried out barbaric actions. They raided in particular the villages neighboring Foum el Hassane and Foum el Hassane itself and all the district called (Nugadi). They set fire to homes, cars, and stores. Two people were wounded and 2 civilians were killed; 14 soldiers of the Royal Armed Forces were wounded and 9 were martyred. We, that is men of the Royal Armed Forces, saw men of the POLISARIO carrying their dead and wounded onto their jeeps.

A chase ensued and it was confirmed without any doubt that these soldiers or these gangs were seeking refuge at the Algerian post situated in (Qoum Lashar) on the other side of (Oued Zara). Therefore, as you know, to make the trip under such circumstances would mean giving the following impression about oneself: In spite of receiving blows, I come for the sake of peace. I do not say yes to peace at any cost and at any price. If our Mauritanian friends have deemed it necessary to retreat, we have decided not to retreat. If I go, my departure would give rise to the assumption that I want to buy peace. I do not buy peace.

Question: Do you desire peace, Your Majesty?

Answer: I buy and sell peace. Peace is bought and sold. It is certain that I would have been forced to adopt a more inflexible stand in order to prove that I desire peace; but I want peace with honor, peace which will preserve what is the property of my country. In the face of such behavior, I deem it appropriate that dignity requires that we not participate--with my personal presence--in the Monrovia conference. This is deeply regrettable, but if the presdient of the Algerian Republic wants peace, then it is my conviction that he will realize that my absence is in in fact an attempt to preserve the future, or more precisely, an attempt not to risk the future.

Question: This means, Your Majesty, if I understand you correctly, that you consider the Algerians to be behind the attacks which Morocco is being subjected to, and accordingly you believe that Algeria is at present being two-faced. How do you explain this stand, since it is indisputable that Houari Boumediene's successors appear to desire some kind of a detente, and this is what you predicted on the death of the Algerian president?

Answer: You are not unaware of the fact that sometimes there is a gap that separates the desire and the ability, a gap which it is impossible for one to bridge in a single move. There is no doubt that this war between Morocco and Algeria does not serve Algerian or Moroccan interests, when in fact it is possible for us to reac' a solution acceptable to both sides. It is a primary duty, in my opinion, that an end be put to this state of aff irs, a duty at the Monrovia meeting to be shouldered by the Algerian president and his (?retinue).

Question: Your Majesty, in what way then do you intend to reach (?agreement) on putting an end to this dispute?

Answer: I believe that before anything else that all light should be shed on the truth of the dispute. But it appears now that the POLISARIO is not receiving support from Algeria alone: Libya supports it openly and has declared so. Whenever the Libyan president, Al-Qadhdhafi, speaks about the POLISARIO, he says: We, and I, am afraid that even if Algeria wants peace one day, Libya will stand in its way to bring the process of detente between Algeria and Morocco to an abrupt halt.

Question: Then this is a new element. It is no longer a matter of a dispute between Algeria and Morocco but has become a dispute supported and adopted by the Libyans.

Answer: Indeed, the analysis which I made was a correct analysis in my opinion. President Chadli Bendjedid is a soldier by profession. The man who is a soldier by profession does his utmost to preserve the best weapons for his army. But the weapons which we have recently been seizing from the POLISARIO are the same weapons discovered in northern Chad when Libya launched its recent attack on Chad.

The said weapons comprise small-scale Stalin Organs, that is B-10's and B-11's, and also the (?14/5) long-distance machineguns, and recently RPG-7 and RPG-9 launchers. All these weapons are conventional, but effective. They are rare and expensive weapons, and it is inconceivable that General Chadli, the professional soldier and a man who is zealous about the honor of his army, would place such weapons in the hands of gangs which are bound to disappear and melt in the sands, or gangs that would create problems throughout the area. It would have been better for him to keep these rare weapons for his army. I seized these weapons here and then I reviewed the descriptions of the same weapons given 15 days ago by the news agencies, the description of the weapons seized in northern Chad. I inevitably noticed the similarity.

Question: Your Majesty, I have two more questions to ask you. As you have referred to the emergence of a new factor, the Libyan factor, is it possible to sum up the Saharan problem today, and when I say Saharan I do not limit the term to the Moroccan Sahara but I mean the whole Sahara, and insofar as Al-Qadhdhafi regards himself a Saharan?

Answer: Of course this is not the first time that Al-Qadhdhafi's name has been linked to the problem of Sahara. Even in 1973 when Moroccan-Algerian relations were very good and I was in the Algerian capital taking part in the Arab League conference, Al-Qadhdhafi was making tortuous statements about the liberation of the Sahara. I think this Saharan headache from which the Libyan leader is suffering does not extend in its effect to Morocco alone; Al-Qadhdhafi has problems on his borders with Chad; Niger does not feel secure and Mali is taken aback by the report of the establishment of a movement for the liberation of the Tuareg in Tripoli. By the Tuareg here is meant the white inhabitants of the Algeria-Mali borders. It is a headache, a distrubing and disturbed headache infecting this part of Africa which is a bridge between black and white Africa. I believe that the time has come for all of us, whether we are in Monrovia personally or represented there, to deeply ponder these problems.

Question: By canceling your departure, are you not afraid of causing bewilderment or disappointment among world public opinion or your friends or even in Moroccan public opinion? Perhaps Your Majesty did not pin high hopes on that meeting?

Answer: I was expecting from the meeting as much as I could hope, but how can you expect me to hope for peace or to speak about it when only just recently a prayer was said for the martyrs of Foum el Hassene, which is in Moroccan territory and was not disputed by Algeria in the past. Second I can tell you without divulging any secret that many of my friends of the heads of the African states are aware that Africa is divided. Even the proceedings of the preminimary conference of the foreign ministers itself gave cause for disappointment. All wise men and everyone of sound opinion realize that all African solutions which could be found would be, like the circumstances through which we are passing, [word indistinct]. So long as Africa is satisfied to remain inside a ship with half its crew on the right row forward and half it crew on the left row backward then it must accept the consequences of this situation.

Question: Would you agree to an appointment to meet President Bendjedid?

Answer: Whenever he likes, provided that there are no killed men lying in our way.

BOUCETTA EXPLAINS POLICY BEFORE OAU SUMMIT MEETING

LD171344 Rabat MAP in English 1241 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Monrovia, July 17 (MAP)--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign minister, explained here Monday evening to the Moroccan journalists who are covering the OAU meetings, the positions adopted by Morocco regarding the main problems examined by the OAU foreign ministers' council.

He first indicated that Morocco played a prominent role at the 33d council of the OAU foreign ministers, as well as within the various commissions. Boucetta said that Morocco will be a member of a commission that will be entrusted with elaborating a new strategy aiming at liberating Africa. This commission will also define the nature and the importance of the support that the whole of Africa must grant to the liberation movements and to the front countries which are fighting the racist regimes of austral Africa and South Africa.

The Moroccan foreign minister further stated that he received the representatives of the two liberation movements, the Zimbabwe [as received] and the SWAPO, and reaffirmed to them Morocco's support for their struggle against colonialism and racism.

On the other hand, Boucetta recalled the offer made by King Hassan II a year and a half ago, and according to which Morocco would place units of the Moroccan Army at the disposal of the United Nations Secretary general, with view to set up an African force for the liberation of Africa, and the defense of African countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

About the Middle East problem, Boucetta pointed out that Morocco, which is chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, reaffirmed before the OAU foreign ministers' council that the heart of the problem lies in the Palestinian question and that no lasting settlement can be reached if the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are not recognized, and if Israel does not withdraw from all Arab occupied territories, including the holy city of Al-Quds.

Regarding the Sahara question, Boucetta recalled that the wisemen committee will present to the 16th summit meeting of the African heads of state a report on the situation in north-west Africa, and on the means that may put an end to the tension prevailing in the area.

The Moroccan delegation at the OAU foreign ministers council explained to the other African delegations that the tension in North-West Africa is in fact an agression perpetrated against Morocco by gangs organized, equipped and armed by Algeria. Boucetta further indicated that several African delegations wish that this question be examined in its real contest: the OAU summit meeting.

The Moroccan foreign minister [word indistinct] stated that the OAU foreign ministers' council also examined a number of social and economic questions, and that Morocco was elected a member of the African commission for struggle against drought and other natural disasters.

Morocco equally played a prominent role in improving the rights of the child and the women in Africa.

About Arab-African cooperation, Boucetta finally precised that the Moroccan delegation emphasized the positive aspects of this cooperation that may settle the economic and the political problems encountered by Africa, and help the concerned countries overcome under-development.

MODA'I: EGYPT RAISED OIL PRICES FOR BARGAINING

TA171809 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Jul 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Recently Egypt announced an increase in the price of oil--similar to that produced in the 'Alma oilfield--from $18.50 to $32.50 per barrel. This was reported by Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i during a debate in the Knesset committee on economic affairs on the issue of plans for saving energy. I would not be surprised to learn, the minister said, that the Egyptians announced this price hike in order to bargain with us. During the debate, chairman of the Knesset committee on economic affairs MK Gad Ya'acobi urged the formulation of plans to curb electricity consumption. Our correspondent on economic affairs 'Oded Shahar attended the committee's debate. [Begin recording]

[Shahar] The debate held by the committee on economic affairs went beyond the issue of saving energy into the issue of the oil shortage in Israel. Energy Minister Moda'i explained that, according to the agreement with the Egyptians, Israel is guaranteed oil supplies at prices prevailing on the international market. However, this issue has no definition in international law.

[Moda'i] Five days after 26 March, when OPEC announced its oil price hikes, on the same day Mexico announced its own oil prices--which ranged somewhere between $1.50 to $2, depending on the kind of oil, above the OPEC prices--the Egyptians announced a rise in their oil prices. By coincidence, the price of a similar kind of oil to that produced from 'Alma was raised from $18.50 to $32.50 per barrel. I would not be surprised if that price had been announced in order to bargain with us.

[Shahar] Minister Moda'i also explained that he would make all possible efforts to avoid implementation of the U.S. commitment to supply oil to Israel so that Israel would not be accused of being the reason for the international oil shortage. [end recording]

Further Details

TA171825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jul 79 TA

[Text] Is there or isn't there an agreement with Egypt to get, or buy oil at world prices? Israel has a commitment to receive Egyptian fuel from 'Alma 2 field at market prices, Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i said today in the Knesset economics committee. Thus the minister denied the leaks yesterday from the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that--the leaks said--there is no agreement with Egypt. Our correspondent Yosi Melman reports.

[Melman] Egypt recently raised the price of fuel of the type produced at 'Alma field by 75 percent: from $18 for a barrel of oil to $32 a barrel. This was revealed by Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i to the Knesset economics committee, which discussed the issue of cutting back on energy consumption. He also said that Israel has an Egyptian commitment to supply oil from 'Alma field when the field is handed over to Egypt.

[Moda'i--begin recording] We have an agreement with the Egyptians for the continuation of oil supplies. I am not prepared to refer to the character of this agreement, but from my personal viewpoint, this agreement is just as valid as either the peace agreement with Egypt or the agreements accompanying it. It is just as valid.

Now, what are the contents of this agreement? Translating freely, it is an Egyptian commitment to supply Israel with fuel, continuously, on a continuous basis [last four words in English] from 'Alma and at the world market prices. [end recording]

[Melman] This price today is $32 a barrel. It should be pointed out that the meaning of the Egyptian decision on the rise in price is that if Israel buys this oil, its price will be even higher than the OPEC prices. The price of the Egyptian oil will come close to those of the world market, the spot market. [last two words in English] Minister Moda'i said he would not be surprised if this decision by Egypt was aimed against Israel.

WEIZMAN TOURS WEST BANK, MEETS MAYORS

TA171854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jul 79 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met in Bethlehem today with the mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jala and expressed his approval of their receiving funds from Arab countries, but only for positive objectives and only with the approval of the military government. Today Weizman also visited Hebron, Qiryat Arba', Neve Tzuf and Bet El. He was also accompanied by our correspondent Shalom Oren.

[Oren] Today, for the first time in about a year the defense minister visited mayors in the West Bank. At Bethlehem the defense minister met with the mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jala. The meeting was in the new municipality building. The minister of defense promised the mayor of Bethlehem that he would also come to the building's inauguration ceremony.

[Weizman--begin recording] The ministry of defense is responsible for the military government. We have come to see what problems the mayor has, what problems the military government has, a normal, routine visit. We spoke about problems of the vegetable market, we spoke about problems of taxes, we spoke about problems of health, about everything. [end recording]

[Oren] The defense minister emphasized: We did not speak about autonomy problems. The mayors also acquainted the defense minister with their towns financial problems. The minister of defense said that in principle he agreed that the municipalities should receive funds from Arab countries, but only for public purposes and not for political use. Use of these funds would require authorization from the military government. The defense minister authorized the mayor Bethlehem to receive $60,000 at once to improve Bethlehem's water system.

Before that the defense minister met with officers of the general staff who are concerned with education. At that meeting, it was promised that all the schools in the West Bank would be opened at the beginning of the study year. From Bethlehem the defense minister went to Hebron, where he made a courtesy visit to the sick Muhammad Ali al-Ja'bari and also met with Mustafa Dudin, the head of the village association in the Hebron area. They discussed agricultural problems of the area villages. At the end of the visit to the mayor of Hebron, the defense minister referred to the state of the relations between Jews and Arabs in Hebron.

[Weizman--begin recording] For some time, I am happy to say, there have been less problems, almost none. I estimate that we will find the way to live together, as we have up to now. I will not deny that there are sometimes problems, but I think you will agree with me that a way can also be found to solve them. [end recording]

[Oren] The minister of defense said further that, first and foremost, the mayors must try to do their jobs as mayors, with politics on the one hand and municipalities on the other. It is my impression, Minister Weizman said, that now there will be less problems. At the end of the visit Minister Weizman went to Qiryat Arba' and met with some of the colony's directors, who complained to him about the slow development of the municipality. Another group of Qiryat Arba's management, which was advised of the meeting with the defense minister, refused to come. The spokesman of the Qiryat Arba' executive committee said: We have been waiting for months for Minister Weizman's visit to present our problems to him in a respectable and orderly fashion. We are not prepared to meet with him briefly.

PERES INTERVIEWED ON PEACE EFFORTS, PALESTINIANS

LD171117 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Jul 79 p 7 LD

[Interview granted by Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres to Nabil Fahmi in Tel Aviv--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Is your forthcoming visit to Egypt the first to an Arab country?

[Answer] It is the first official visit to an Arab country, but I have visited certain Arab countries unofficially and secretly. I cannot divulge the names of these countries now. I will visit Egypt at the head of a delegation of party leaders because we are very interested in consolidating relations between our countries. I have always wished to visit Egypt. This is going to be achieved thanks to President as-Sadat's initiative and his visit to Jerusalem which has smashed the psychological barrier between us.

[Question] What will you do when you will visit Egypt?

[Answer] During my visit I hope to meet with President as-Sadat who I believe is a first-class statesman. I am also fond of the Pyramids. But my visit will not be only for this purpose. I would like to say that Egypt is a country whose ancient history cannot be grasped from the daily newspapers but only from history books. Egypt has played a basic role in supporting world peace for some 7,000 years.

I have believed and still believe that Egypt is one of the most important Mideast states and that the Arab world depends on Egypt. Although Egypt, like many other countries, may now be suffering from difficulties, I am optimistic about its future, particularly since God has endowed the Egyptian people with an ancient history, knowledge and intelligence, all of which are a great wealth--greater than any other wealth of development resources.

[Question] What is your opinion of the peace process?

[Answer] Here we have a different opinion. Our stand is based on belief in the need to solve the Palestinian problem and the right to existence of every state, including Israel. Reaching a solution to this problem can only be achieved through meeting with the Palestinians, including those outside the West Bank and Gaza.

We have no problem with regard to meeting with the Palestinians. The problem is among themselves. You can bring a horse to water but you cannot force him to drink. The problem with the Palestinians is to get them closer to the water and to make them more receptive to drinking it.

President as-Sadat has made tremendous efforts to solve this problem. The problem of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza is to overcome the fear of the threat from outside. I believe that the integration of the Palestinians with the Jordanians would solve their problems and would make life easier for them. The fact that there are no language and religious differences between the Jordanians and the Palestinians would contribute to this solution.

[Question] What is your opinion of the settlements?

[Answer] We have expressed our fears over the building of such settlements, but they should not be an obstacle to the participation of other countries in the negotiations--such as Syria, which must show a sense of responsibility, and King Husayn, who should follow President as-Sadat's example.

[Question] What is your comment on the gap between the Egyptian and the Israeli stands with regard to self-rule?

[Answer] I feel that both sides are riding in the same vehicle but that the driver is driving slowly and with caution; he does not want to increase the vehicle's speed. Therefore I do not expect quick results.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the bolstering of peace efforts?

[Answer] Our effort is centered in the parliament, where we express our views. We cannot do more than that. As you know, peace is mutual trust not only between governments or leaders but also between peoples.

[Question] There are some people in Israel who reject peace. This is confirmed by the fact that [Knesset member] Geula Kohen left the Likud bloc because she objects to the peace steps. She also tore up the peace treaty in the Knesset.

[Answer] There is nobody in Israel who rejects peace. But they reject the abolition of peace [as published]. We also find that the ruling party is erecting some obstacles to peace. With regard to Kohen, she has left the party but not the parliament because she rejects the peace terms. It is only an individual attitude, but public opinion supports peace. She is in a minority that expresses its opposition to peace from time to time.

Concluding, Peres said: "I hope to see you in Cairo soon. This will not be my last visit, for I hope to visit Cairo again in September."

IDF NAVAL ACTION IN LEBANON REPORTED

TA171706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jul 79 TA

[Text] Half an hour ago naval ships attacked a terrorist base on the Lebanese coast. The IDF spokesman reported that the base served the terrorists for the planning and preparation of strikes at Israel via the sea.

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES INTERFERENCE IN AFGHAN AFFAIRS

LD172306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Report on interview granted by Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi to PARS correspondent: date and venue not given]

[Text] [Intercepted in progress] He said: The fact that in the past they turned communism into a club in order to crush the nations is, we think, totally baseless and without foundation; and in principle no danger called communism ever exists in the Islamic countries.

Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, who gave an exclusive interview to PARS about Iran's policy toward the problem of Afghanistan and the struggles waged by the Muslim nation in that country, said: Our position on Afghanistan, as so often declared, is decisive and clear and is based on the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries. Just as we are not willing to see other countries interfere in our domestic affairs, we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. We believe that in order to solve the problem of Afghanistan all foreign forces should refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

Asked whether official or unofficial links existed between the Iranian Government and the movement of Muslims in Afghanistan, Dr Yazdi said: No links exist between the Iranian Government and the revolutionary movement of the people of Afghanistan. The Iranian foreign minister confirmed the possibility of the existence of a link between Iran's revolutionary organization and Afghanistan's movement.

Speaking about the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on the Persian Gulf basin, and particularly with regard to the Sultanate of Oman and the question of the struggles of the Dhofar people, the Iranian foreign minister said: the Islamic Republic of Iran will never act as the gendarme of the Persian Gulf and we believe that foreign, nonindigenous and nonlocal forces should not interfere in the Persian Gulf. The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf will exacerbate tension in the area. Our short-term diplomacy consists of reducing any tensions with our neighbors, including our neighbors on the Persian Gulf littoral, and reassuring these countries that Iran does not intend to export its revolution to other countries. In principle, revolution is not something that can be exported from one country to another. It is the people of each country who should participate in working out their destiny. Our policy with regard to Oman is not divorced from these principles.

Dr Yazdi added: We oppose interference by any foreign force in Oman, and should there be a war or a quarrel within Oman between the people or a group of the people with the central government, if foreign forces intervened they would only exacerbate tension, just as the Iranian troops' participation in the Dhofar war during the era of the former shah was opposed by the Iranian people. During our recent meetings with the representative of the Omani Government during his visit to Iran and also in the meeting with that country's ambassador, we brought this issue to their attention and they, on their part, also assured us that they will not invite foreign forces, whether Egyptian or otherwise, to go to their aid in order to confront their problems. We believe that the people of a country like Oman can better overcome their own problems, just as the Islamic revolution in Iran achieved victory without enjoying foreign help.

Asked whether Iran will play a role to counter communism in the region, Dr Yazdi said: The fact that in the past they constantly turned communism into a club to crush the nations is totally baseless and without foundation; and in principle no danger called communism has ever existed or exists in the Islamic countries.

Asked whether Persian Gulf security is being threatened by some danger, Dr Yazdi said: Yes, a danger is threatening Persian Gulf security and the security of our countries. But one should see from which forces and from whom this danger stems. When we hear that as a possible emergency program the United States is preparing a 110,000 strong army for the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, we cannot but feel anxious and we cannot but think how to counter this danger. In fact, this is the danger.

Asked what is Iran's reaction to U.S. military maneuvers in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, Dr Yazdi said: What we have read and heard in the press and in official reports is that the United States has made preparations for a 110,000-man army, but this action cannot be carried out so simply. The United States knows better than anybody else that if it wanted to make use of this emergency plan, it would be confronted with fierce resistance by the people of the area. But the working out of this emergency plan is in order to boost the morale of those who are feeling weakness in this area because of the downfall of the shah and of the Iranian Government, which was a U.S. puppet

He added: Moreover, the problems which exist with regard to translating these plans into action cause one to think that this plan has more of a putative nature than a real one. At any rate, we are not afraid of this plan as we know that if the United States wanted to put such a plan into operation, it would face fierce resistance from our people.

AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI ISSUES STATEMENT ON UNITY MARCH

LD171320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] His Great Eminence Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri has issued a statement on the unity march today:

In his exalted name, "and hold fast, all together by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided" [quotation from the Koran]. Muslim brothers and sisters, it seems necessary for me to draw the public attention to a number of points, especially because of the sensitive condition of our Islamic revolution and at a time when conspirators and counterrevolutionaries from one side and opportunists from the other are taking advantage of the lack of power on the government's part and are spreading disunity and war.

1. Colonialist powers of the world, and especially the United States, after the collapse of the shah's regime, have lost their political, economic, military and strategic interests in the region. Therefore, through NATO and the Warsaw Pact and their spies, and through leftist and rightist mercenaries, they are trying to surround our victorious Islamic revolution, and by strengthening their mercenary governments in the region they want to suppress the cries of the oppressed people. They are trying to destroy the unity of expression of the Muslim nation of Iran, which was one of the main factors in the victory over Satan, by promoting factionalism and provoking regional confrontations, thus preventing the reflection of the Islamic revolutionary movement in the depths of history and the world.

2. Iran, following its victory over the hated Pahlavi regime, is passing through the transitional stages of changing from a society which was unaware, ruined and the victim of colonialism to the prosperous, aware and free society of the Islamic era. So, naturally, it has to tolerate a kind of confusion, dispersion, hardship and uncertainty. But, by the grace of God and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, all these anxieties will be dealt with. Counterrevolutionary elements intend to aggravate the dissatisfactions and the rebellious conditions of the different groups and strata of the nation, taking away the spirit of firmness and persistence from our fighting people.

3. The revolutionary culture of Islam has not been fully implemented in many of the rural, remote and border regions yet. This has been the result of the domination of the monarchical system in Iran, which has kept the level of growth and human awareness as well as the financial situation quite low in many places. Colonialist elements of East and West have started a vast propaganda campaign and have tampered with the holy face of the Islamic revolution, trying to deceive the starving and ignorant people of these parts and distort their revolutionary stand. Under such pitiful situations we expected that under the holy teachings of Islam and the learned and decisive guidelines provided by His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the Provisional Government would face the problems and difficulties of the people decisively and would provide for the cultural, developmental, economic and humanitarian needs of the people in order to abolish half of the present problems. But now that the patient nation of Iran is facing a mountain of problems and difficulties, it is necessary to review its revolutionary fire and remind itself that from the very first days of the revolution, it has been faced with huge and tiring problems which can only be surmounted by acquiring revolutionary maturity, uniting the authenticated powers, exposing opportunist and counterrevolutionary elements and their destruction, adopting virtue and revolutionary patience and maintaining unity of expression and leadership, being prepared to fight and sacrifice oneself as martyrs.

According to the order issued by Imam Khomeyni, Tuesday 17 July 1979, has been announced as the day of the unity march. It is befitting that all the struggling and noble people of Iran should attend the march and demonstrations with utmost preparation and show their revolutionary discipline, unity, maturity and firmness to all the foreign powers, counterrevolutionary mercenaries, opportunists and conservatives. The way to the final victory of the Islamic revolution has been decorated by the warm blood of our martyrs, with death and deprivation. Greetings to those who follow the truth.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Unity March Report

LD172004 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Today once again the believers in Islam and the Islamic Republic, in response to the call of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, took part in a glorious demonstration. Millions of people throughout the country took part in the unity march and by proving their national solidarity renewed their allegience to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni. In today's demonstration more than 100 political, social, professional and Islamic groups and organizations took part. At the end of today's great demonstration a resolution consisting of nine articles was issued.

Nine-Point Resolution

LD172030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At the conclusion of today's massive marches a nine-point resolution was read out. The text of this resolution, entitled The Unity March Resolution, reads as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian nation's Islamic revolution, which crushed with its furious flames the fiendish might of Satan, has terrified the followers of the ideologies of the East and West, the superpowers and international world-devourers. You now witness with your eyes the scum of the former hateful regime and the venal agents of the foreigners. The opportunists, who with the stabilization of Islam in this land and soil are seeing their ambitions and bases threatened with ruin, have realized that the path to their victory lies in defeat and that our defeat lies in our Muslim nation's division. On this basis they have striven with might and main to undermine the monolithic unity of our Muslim nation, so much so that they have resorted to plots in the various nooks and corners of this land and soil, and in order to realize their satanical goals they have carried out shameful deeds and they have confronted this united and monolithic Muslim nation by setting up factions and sowing divisions.

At this sensitive time in our history when our destiny is being forged, the various strata of the Muslim nation are gathered in this mammoth rally and are putting forward their demands in a nine-point resolution. Let us once again demonstrate our monotheistic might to all the superpowers and the domestic and foreign enemies and let us cast in a firmer mold our nation's will for the reconstruction of our society.

Here is the text of the resolution:

1. With the utmost decisiveness and with an emphasis greater than ever before we support his great eminence the prophet-like Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni and will defend to the last drop of our blood the imam's leadership with reliance on the proud, monotheistic ideology of Islam, which is the most deep-rooted factor for the cohesion of this nation.

2. From our standpoint, a constitution could only be the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran which corresponds to the progressive principles of Islam, depends on the Koran, religious tradition and the monotheistic world outlook and enjoys the backing of the imam.

3. The setting up of the council of experts and a referendum directly involving the nation--as is favored by our illustrious leader--constitute the best way for a final study and approval of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. While supporting the verdicts issued by the Islamic revolutionary courts, we call for ever greater decisiveness by the revolution's public prosecutor's office, which would expedite the work of the courts, and in the meantime we emphasize that the revolutionary courts, apart from increasingly punishing the perpetrators of the calamities and crimes of the past regime, should set about crushing the counterrevolutionary elements and smashing the plots hatched by the agents of the foreigners.

5. We call for direct intervention by the army and the law enforcement forces in crushing the elements servile to the foreigners and the remnants of the former regime, who are daily creating a calamity in every corner of the country by hatching antipeople and anti-Islamic plots.

6. Any separatism in any form and under any pretext is condemned to defeat from the standpoint of the Iranian nation and we will defend to the last drop of blood the monolithic and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

7. The Iranian nation expects the press and the various groups to utilize freedom--this precious achievement of the revolution--to further the interests of the great Muslim masses, never to confuse freedom with plots and to know that any misuse of freedom regarding the service of the country will not remain unanswered from the standpoint of the nation.

8. While backing the revolutionary plans of the Islamic Revolutionary Council we insistently call on the Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to act with utmost decisiveness with regard to the problems and difficulties and not to allow the agents of the foreigners to hatch plots and embark on treason.

9. Taking into consideration the various plots that have been hatched in various economic fields and the propaganda for terrorism and sabotage launched by the agents of the world-devourers of left and right, we hereby warn all sowers of discord and plotters not to exhaust any further the patience of the Muslims and not to fan any further the flames of wrath of the people's revolution against themselves, because henceforth our nation, with complete solidarity and by safeguarding the unity of its word, will stand up to them with all its might and will crush these plots with utmost ferocity.

[Signed] The staff organizing the unity march.

KHOMEYNI MEETS WITH TALEQANI, BAZARGAN, MINISTERS

Meeting With Taleqani

LD181015 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 18 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Last night His Great Eminence Seyyed Mahmud Taleqani arrived in Qom to meet Imam Khomeyni. It is said that the private meeting between Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and His Eminence Taleqani, which lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours, has great significance.

Meeting With Bazargan, Ministers

LD181018 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At 1000 this morning Prime Minister Eng Mehdi Bazargan, accompanied by Justice Minister Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, Interior Minister Sabbaghian, Foreign Minister Dr Yazdi and Minister of State Dr Sahabi, arrived in Qom and held talks with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, in his place of residence. The correspondent of PARS in his report from Qom reports that the sudden meeting of the prime minister and his companions with Imam Khomeyni after the private meeting between His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and Imam Khomeyni shows the importance of the problems discussed in the meeting between the prime minister and Imam Khomeyni. His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani was also present in the meeting of the members of the Cabinet with Imam Khomeyni.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON AHVAZ NUCLEAR POWERPLANT TO STOP

LD171330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Mr Fereydun Sahabi, the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organizqtion and deputy energy minister, in an interview with Mojtaba Jabal-'Ameli, a correspondent of the Voice of The Iranian Islamic Republic, announced this morning: Construction work on the Ahvaz nuclear power plant will be stopped completely. He also said that resumption of construction work on the Bushewr nuclear powerplant, most of which has been completed, will depend upon the government's final and conclusive decision. He said that at the moment there is no justifiable reason for us to have such powerplants.

The head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization said: Should nuclear powerplants be closed down and the country's uranium consumption be reduced, the agreements relating to setting up nuclear powerplants, including those relating to the supply of fuel, will be canceled. Mr Sahabi added: Henceforth the Atomic Energy Organization's essential mission will be to enhance the country's knowledge on nuclear energy with a view toward achieving self-sufficiency.

SHARI'AT-MADARI ON CONSTITUTION, AUTONOMY, KHOMEYNI

LD171431 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jul 79 pp 1,6 LD

[Eric Rouleau Interview With Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari in Qom: "Autonomist Agitation in Iran"--date not given]

[excerpt] Qom--"Members of the clergy, whose role is a spiritual one," [Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari] told us, "should not interfere in affairs of state and should not assume government responsibilities. The people are sovereign and will shortly elect their representatives who, in turn, will appoint the government."

However, Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari attributes a political task of prime importance to the clergy. He supports the installation of a surveillance council--a sort of state council--included in the draft constitution, the religious members of which will have the right to veto any law which does not conform to Islamic precepts. "We will act as attorneys with regard to those in power. Should tyranny once again take hold, our mission is to denounce it and save the people as we did during the Pahlavi Monarchy," he added.

The same equivocal attitude was apparent on the subject of the rights of ethnic groups. "All Iran's peoples have the right to autonomy within the framework of the unity, integrity and independence of the Islamic Republic," he stated. However, he does not see that the draft constitution article proclaiming Shi'ite Islam to be the state religion, while the Kurds, Arabs, Baluchis and other ethnic groups are largely Sunni Muslims, might be a divisive factor. "It was the Shi'ite supporters who sparked off the revolution and it is unreasonable to expect them to abandon their prerogatives, preserving one of the main attributes of their individuality. Is Sunnism not the state religion in various Muslim countries?"

"The Government's Independence"

His view of autonomy does not correspond to the demands of the ethnic movements either. These aspirations, he maintained, are "rather excessive" but "everything can be negotiated."

In this respect he came out against the use of force, which is only justified in his eyes should the Kurds and Arabs opt for secession. "The basic problem facing us," he added, "is not so much that of autonomy but of the republic's unity and integrity."

Negotiations with the representatives of ethnic groups will take place in the "assembly of experts" which is due to be elected 3 August. This "restricted constituent assembly" comprising 75 members seems to have been designed to limit the representation of the minority peoples. Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari is aware of this but admitted, apparently sadly, that he accepted it following a compromise with those "who initially wanted to have the draft constitution ratified by an appointed assembly comprising 30 members."

The method of election which provides for the designation of one deputy per 500,000 inhabitants will, furthermore, have the effect of "drowning" the liberal or leftwing secular voters--also minority groups--in the mass of people supporting Ayatollah Khomeyni. The elimination of the left will not grieve Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari: "I would prefer not to see communist representatives sitting on the council but if, despite everything, they are elected then they must be tolerated." For his part he will support various lists of candidates including that of Azarbayjan, which is headed by the province's former governor, Rahmatollah Moqadam.

The latter having complained in our presence that the secular parties had no access to radio and television during the election campaign, Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari said he was disturbed by this discrimination and about the conditions in which the election is to take place. In fact representatives of parties opposing that of Imam Khomeyni will not be able to keep watch on the polling booths. "I condemn this injustice," our interlocutor declared, "but I can do nothing more. The candidates must protest and demand that their rights be respected. They have many newspapers in which they can do so."

Like many people here, Shari'at-Madari does not attribute too much importance to the forthcoming elections and to the adoption of a new constitution, "which will not necessarily put an end to anarchy." He attributes anarchy to the "transitional phase which we are going through" and to "the inexperience of the present government members," whom he nonetheless described as "wise and honest." He advocates the dissolution of the Islamic committees and all the militia, including the Revolutionary Guards. Does he also condemn the Islamic courts and their bloody repression which has recently been directed mainly at prostitutes and homosexuals? He answered, imperturbably, that he does not know much about it and could not therefore pass any judgement....

He was more voluble on foreign policy and said that "from the strictly spiritual viewpoint" the USSR was more dangerous for Muslim Iran than the United States. He holds Moscow responsible for "the tyranny to which the Afghan people are subjected." On the other hand, he said that the U.S. leaders "are too prudent to seriously envisage military action in the Persian Gulf."

In an interview lasting 3 hours Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari accomplished the amazing feat of not mentioning Imam Khomeyni once. Is he still at loggerheads with him? He answered playfully: "You have not mentioned Giscard d'Estaing, does that mean you support the opposition in France? Reassure your readers that Mr Khomeyni and I are friends and allies....

LE MONDE INTERVIEWS MILITARY POLICE CHIEF RAHIMI

LD171049 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jul 79 pp 1, 3 LD

[Eric Rouleau Tehran interview with Iranian general Rahimi on 12 July: "Visit to a Self-Confident General"]

[Excerpt] Tehran--"I am not only a nationalist patriot but also an unrepentant democrat," [military police chief] General Rahimi stated. Controlling his vehemence, he hammered out his words: "On my word as an officer and on my word of honor I would not stay here for one moment if the people were not guaranteed freedom, full freedom. I would not be at my post if the Imam Khomeyni had not assured me just recently that all parties, including the Tudeh Party (Communist Party), would take part in the forthcoming elections and would be represented in parliament. Therefore Iran will be just as democratic as France or Britain. This is the only way in which we will avoid instability, ethnic disturbances or coups."

Reorganizing the Army

However, it is important to begin at the beginning and give Iran a united, disciplined and strong army. General Rahimi thinks he is charged with this mission. He said so repeatedly without false modesty. His plan--which, he maintains, is that of the Imam Khomeyni--comprises two stages: reorganization of the army before the dissolution of the Islamic committees, the Revolutionary Guards and his own "wearers of black." He admits that these militia are vital "for the next 2 or 3 months." "We need this time," he said, "to restore the people's good opinion of the regular army since they wrongly hold it responsible for the killings which preceded the shah's fall. In fact a tiny minority, perhaps 2 percent of officers, was guilty of the bloody repression. After the purges the army was once again a sound body. All it needs now is discipline, which some people refuse to establish in order to encourage dark plans, or for fear of paving the way to a coup d'etat."

On this last point the military police chief was categorical: A coup is inconceivable without the clergy's backing. "Suppose I wanted to seize control," General Rahimi said, "this is just a hypothesis of course, I would first have to obtain Imam Khomeyni's official blessing...."

If Khomeyni just gave him the go-ahead, he would restore discipline in all the country's garrisons "in 1 week." He would remove "weak and ignorant" officers and replace them with men who "know their job" and who would win the soldier's confidence and respect. This is already the case in his garrison at Jamshidiyeh "where discipline is comparable to that in the French Army." After that he would deal with the militia, which would be disbanded willingly or unwillingly. The Revolutionary Guards would be integrated into the regular forces. Political groups such as the People's Mojahedin and the fedayeen would hand over their weapons voluntarily "since we will guarantee them security and democracy."

Will he or would he be able to disarm the autonomist movements, for example in Kordestan or Khuzestan, so easily? "Yes!" the General roared. "You just have to be strong to win obedience. Three thousand of my men are on alert and ready to leave for Khuzestan but the government will not authorize me to go and defend the oilfields." They should trust him: His "boys" will not need to fire a single shot. The autonomists know his democratic feelings. He will treat them in the same way as citizens of Persian origin. They will be able to vote freely, and the parliament which is elected will decide whether they have a right to autonomy or not....

General Rahimi is very worried. While the government spends its time in petty intrigues, the country is falling apart and anarchy is spreading. "The revolution is threatened, only the army can save it," he urged. "We must set to work quickly." During our interview Thursday evening, the government was deliberating in Qom with Imam Khomeyni. Was he hoping for Mr Bazargan's resignation? General Rahimi smiled without saying anything, but listened carefully every time the transistor on his desk gave a news bulletin. Clearly Mr Bazargan is not abandoning the shreds of power he holds. He does not want to leave the path open for the "bearded men" of Qom.

General Rahimi accompanied us to his office door: "Tell the French people, for whom I have a great liking, that the Iranian revolution will triumph in the end." The anteroom was packed with officers who stood at attention. Several journalists were also waiting to be received. "The homeland needs me but I do not know what fate awaits me," General Rahimi said rather sadly as we left. A 14-year-old boy, his own, who followed our interview with great attention, looked at him with deep admiration. He, at least, has no doubts about his father's destiny....

FOREIGN MINISTER NAMES AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA

LD180634 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Excerpt] Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, the foreign minister of our country, appointed Mr Hasan Rohani as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Damascus.

LINKS WITH LIBYA TO BE ESTABLISHED 'SOON'

LD171748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today that political relations will soon be established between Iran and Libya. An announcement published today says: Following the continuous, fraternal relations between the officials of the provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their Libyan brothers and colleagues and following the recent visit by a representative of the Libyan Government of Iran and his talks with officials of the Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was decided that on the invitation of the Libyan Government, a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be sent to Libya in the near future so that discussions with officials of that country about establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries can take place. Following these discussions steps will be taken concerning the opening of diplomatic missions of Iran and Libya in Tripoli and Tehran.

TUDEH PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT REPORTED

NC161800 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Jul 79 p 11 NC

[Text of statement issued by the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party in Tehran on "10 ordibehesht 1358, about the beginning of July 1979" [as published] entitled: "The revolution, the counterrevolution...and how we safeguard the people's gains"--all parentheses as published]

[Text] In the past few weeks, or more precisely, in the past few days, new developments have occurred in the sky of our homeland, where the gains of our people are now being subjected to real danger at the hands of the counterrevolution.

The counterrevolutionary reactionary forces involved themselves in the incidents near Sanandaj--in Naqadah--and in Gonbad-e Kavus to harm Ayatollah Mahmud Taleqani (the man charged by the Iranian command council with resolving the problems of the minorities in the country). The reactionary forces moved from one place to another to do harm to Ayatollah Khalkhali (the chairman of the Revolutionary Court) and accused him of attacking the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in an article which was published under his name in the leftist newspaper (AYANDEGAN). The same forces moved in Tabriz, Tehran and Mashhad to create sedition and disturbances and to stop the march of the revolution. They assassinated Gen Vali Qarani, (the army chief of staff).

The counterrevolutionary forces are now active inside as well as outside the homeland, seriously plotting against the revolutionary movement of the Iranian people and against the interests of millions of the sons of the Iranian people--the toilers in the city and the countryside.

World forces hostile to our revolution, particularly Western imperialist quarters led by U.S. imperialism and world Zionism, are creating an international atmosphere hostile to the revolution and its achievements by creating feverish propaganda campaigns against the revolution. Supported by the remnants of SAVAK, criminals of the defunct regime and world imperialism, the imperialist agents in our country are engaging in certain activities aimed at creating crises in the economic, political, social and cultural fields, intimidating the people by various means and portraying the revolution as if it had come to slay the people and loot their money and property.

The counterrevolutionary forces have built their nests in the government and administrative departments and in all the military establishments. For the revolution to achieve its aims, we must purge these establishments of these reactionary elements which are linked with the defunct corrupt regime and the police of the shah. The counterrevolution sends its elements to infiltrate the ranks of the revolutionary forces and establish factions and blocs which act under the screen of defending the people. These groupings assume (revolutionary and progressive) names. They act at times under the name of extremist (religion) and at others under the name of the extreme (revolutionary left).

The counterrevolutionary forces are trying to divert the masses from their main duties. They defend the country's basic law, wail democracy, and demand an amnesty for the leaders of the former regime and the officials of the army, secret and public police, gendarmerie and Al-Khalidin division, who grew in the laps of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary circles in the area.

These forces are trying to foil the march of the revolutionary movement which is proceeding forward under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. This revolutionary movement is steadily proceeding toward wrenching the foundations of the former regime by tearing out the roots of political, military, economic and cultural domination by imperialists, and foremost the roots of U.S. imperialism and Zionism, throughout the country. This movement is struggling to spread democracy, full freedom and human rights for all deprived people and to exploit the national wealth for social progress on all levels.

The triumphant movement of the masses will proceed forward and will fight from one trench to another. It will fight reaction, imperialism and the remnants of the defeated regime of the shah. Yesterday, the masses dealt a crushing blow to the strongest fortress of the shah--(the Al-Khalidin Division). American imperialism and the deposed shah felt then that the fortified positions inside Iran had started collapsing. CIA circles realized then that direct military interference in Iran would result in the heaviest losses in the ranks of the invading aggressors, because all the revolutionary forces and progressive states supported the revolution and would definitely support it against any would-be foreign interference.

Two Political Trends in the Stage of Building

The Iranian revolutionary movement is progressing despite the growth of the traitorous wings which advocate class detente. The revolution has smashed the regime which ruled Iran for thousands of years and has raised the flags of Islam, right and justice. It began a new stage in the nature of the social, economic, political and cultural system--a system against imperialism. However, the forces which aspire to build the new regime with all its establishments do not have the same outlook. There are two contradictory trends. The first wants to build the state in accordance with progressive bases and on solid ground and a strong economy. The second calls for lenience toward the reactionary classes, a line and course which are against the evolution of history.

In order to halt the second trend we must try to liquidate the remnants of the corrupt regime's institutions--the army, the police, SAVAK, the gendarmerie--and purge the courts of reactionary elements. This must be accompanied by efforts to arm the toiling masses and all the popular groups, strengthen (the Revolutionary Guard) and bolster the revolutionary courts in Tehran and all other cities in order to enable them to fulfill their revolutionary tasks of liquidating the heads of the agent shahanshah regime. This must be accompanied by struggle to expose the secret military pacts with U.S. imperialism and other states, offers of aid to the nonalined states and alliance with the progressive states and all revolutionary and democratic forces in the world. Efforts must also be made to extend all aid to the Palestinian revolution, which is considered the frontline trench against world imperialism. Oil revenues must be utilized for the welfare of the deprived masses. Reactionary capitalists and their industrial and agricultural institutions and the big banks must be liquidated, because all these capitalist institutions are linked with the shah's family and his traitor friends, who smuggled millions of the people's money abroad at a time when the people were offering thousands of victims and martyrs from street to street.

These are the demands of the people--the demands of the popular revolutionary forces of workers, peasants, revolutionary intellectuals, patriotic merchants, petit and medium bourgeoisie. Against these tasks, the forces which are calling for (class alliance and social peace) are active and are exploiting gaps and mistakes of the government, appeasing the big capitalists and even some of the traitors of the people--these forces are calling for tolerance, moderation and for general amnesty for those who mismanaged the country, emptied the banks and ruined the Iranian national economy.

They advocate not expelling U.S. and Western advisers, who are agents of U.S. intelligence, on the pretext that the industrial, financial and agricultural institutions might benefit from them. On the military level, they are demanding that the old military institutions be kept, provided they offer (deceptive) allegiance to the new revolutionary government and to Imam Khomeyni.

In short, this line which works under the slogan of (tolerance and moderation) is a treasonous and suspect line, hostile to the Iranian revolution. This line has begun to grow and take shape in a terrifying manner and is causing chaos in the anti-imperialist revolution. The leaders of this line are seeking to build a (semicommitted) state in order to liquidate the revolution from inside according to a careful program. This line has not been presented before in a clear, specific, and written manner by any political organization, and no group will dare present this thesis for fear of the Iranian people and their alert revolutionary forces, but the line is backed by the big capitalists and landowners who are linked with the imperialist quarters and the representatives of the rightist wing of the Iranian national movement. The national forces must expose this line and its misleading and deceptive slogans.

The counterrevolutionary forces inside and outside Iran still occupy prominent places in the state institutions and departments and the economic centers. Some of these elements have even infiltrated some of the revolution's executive institutions, and they played a big role in ruining the Iranian economy, creating the crisis of exhorbitant high prices afflicting the Iranian market and causing a big gap in the balance of payments. They are seeking to cause strife among the revolutionary forces in the country.

The Position of the State

Therefore, there are two lines in the Iranian arena--a revolutionary line and the line of the capitalists and big landowners (feudalism). The Provisional Government has a position on the two lines.

It is true that the Provisional Government is preoccupied with economic problems, faces big problems and is tackling great and sensitive tasks. It is trying to respond to the basic demands of the people, settle the question of the Iranian oil consortium and liquidate the effects of the foreign experts, since these policies are supported by the people and by all the revolutionary forces in the country. On the other hand, these actions are being resisted by elements and institutions of the second line. The Provisional Government is maintaining silence toward this line, which is basically hostile to the people and their aspirations for the future.

In his directives and analysis the prime minister has adopted the symbols of this line. He opposes the formation of the Revolutionary Guard forces and the revolutionary courts under Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, although these institutions are the product of the people and are working in their service. The provisional prime minister is seeking to build the new economy of the country without removing the roots of the old economy, which is linked with imperialism. To solve the economic problems of the people, the prime minister pays much attention to the opinions of the capitalists without following the path of the interests of the masses and benefiting from the opinions of the creative forces of workers, engineers, salaried employees and patriotic managers.

Sources in the Provisional Government say that it is unable to solve the economic problems because the masses present (unreasonable and illogical demands). The truth is that the basic crisis of the Provisional Government is that it lacks sound policies to solve the basic problems of the country, foremost of which are the economic problems.

If the Provisional Government wants to adopt the revolutionary line that is supported by the majority of the people, then it must draw up short-term and long-term plans and present them to the representatives of the people--workers, peasants, revolutionary intelligentsia and nationalist bourgeoisie--to discuss all the development plans and projects in order to lay the basis that will insure the solution of all the current crises in the country.

We have no doubt that all our people's toilers and loyal nationalists in Iran have an indomitable desire to develop the revolution and move it forward. We are confident that the masses are fully prepared to make sacrifices for the final victory. It is very regrettable, however, that the Provisional Government is not tackling all the people's problems, which are worsening daily.

The Tasks of the Revolutionary Forces

In order to confront the counterrevolutionary forces and check the weakening and retrogradation of the Provisional Government, and in order to push the revolution's ambitions forward, the government should utilize all the creative capabilities of the Iranian people in the interest of the revolution. The nationalist organizations and all the loyal revolutionary forces should push the revolution forward.

In view of these intertwined circumstances, the primary tasks of the revolutionary forces are:

1. To diagnose the objective and intrinsic conditions of the Iranian revolution, concentrating on the main questions, deferring secondary issues and sticking to the basics for the time being; to diagnose the phase as the phase of the democratic nationalist revolution so that we may know exactly what we seek from the revolution and what are our duties toward it.

2. A scientific political view of our revolution and our tasks makes it incumbent upon us to be farsighted. We cannot achieve the real aims of our revolution unless all the loyal forces start building (the united front). The revolution will definitely be able to bury all the intrigues against it. To maintain discord and differences among the radical revolutionary forces is the greatest service to the counterrevolutionary forces.

It is in such an unhealthy atmosphere that the agents of imperialism and SAVAK and all the enemies of the Iranian revolutionary movement seek to isolate the supporters of scientific socialism from the march of millions of Iranian people who are struggling under the slogan of Islam--the movement which has under its banner all the Iranian peoples. The counterrevolutionary forces are trying to turn the people against each other and are fabricating the Sunnite and Shi'ite question in order to foment sedition and sectarian fighting. They don the cloak of scientific socialism just to invent (resounding) false names in order to distort the deep-rooted principles and sow the seeds of division. It is in such a putrid atmosphere that the counterrevolutionary forces who support the ill-fated traitors (Nikikhwah and Ja'faryan) publish unfounded lies about the nationalist forces in order to create convulsive political atmospheres to obstruct the building of the united front.

The counterrevolutionary forces are becoming stronger and progressing daily. They are fabricating lies and rumors with utmost precision. Our Tudeh Party, which has gained experience through the 40 years of struggle, will put its experience in the service of the people on the road to national independence, democracy, social progress and prosperity for the Iranian toilers.

It will struggle unceasingly against the counterrevolutionary forces. The experiences gained by the revolutionary movements which have achieved victory have proved that the duty of the revolutionary forces is to unite and struggle jointly. On this occasion, we urgently submit to all the Iranian revolutionary forces a binding plan for national dialog. Our party believes that the basic issues which must be discussed and realized are:

1. To find scientific ways to forge the unity and solidarity of the national ranks in order that they may stand against the imperialist, Zionist, Maoist and local reactionary intrigues.

2. To remove the suspect elements and sides from the united front--those elements which have become active recently and level fabricated accusations against the commander of the revolutionary forces and the nation's political leaders.

3. To organize a unified, joint program to preserve the revolution's gains and to define the demands of the people in our country.

4. To work jointly to promulgate the new constitution for the country in order to guarantee the revolution's ambitions, represented in being antagonistic to imperialism and spreading democracy for the Iranian people.

5. To form the united front for the sake of instituting (the institutions councils) to debate the constitution and amend it so as to guarantee the emergence of a firmly established democratic national government in the future.

6. To struggle for the emergence of a coalition national government from among the people, through the participation of all Iranian revolutionary forces, in order to preserve the constitution and the national laws.

[Signed] The central committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party.

Tehran, 10 Ordibehesht 1358, corresponding to early July 1979 [as published].

KHOMEYNI SEEN AS FOCAL POINT OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

LD181825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful. Today we shall witness the glorious demonstration by millions of people throughout Iran, showing their solidarity with Imam Khomeyni. This solidarity is the only guarantee of the continuation of the revolution and of our country too. Every attempt to weaken this solidarity is a disaster. This solidarity belongs to the whole nation and is not the monopoly of any party or group and it should be safeguarded in this form. It is treachery if any party or group wishes to monopolize it or to present it through its own limited channels, because any mistake or deviation by that party or any special group--which are numerous--will directly weaken the bond of solidarity between the people and the Imam.

Today's march instinctively reminds us of the winter of 1977 and the shameful article which SAVAK published in the newspaper ETTELA'AT against Imam Khomeyni.

At that time groups of people demonstrated against the article, and the slaughter of Qom ensued. But this became a spark which set fire to the powder keg of our bloody revolution which, in a miraculous way, in only 1 year demolished the shah's regime. Now, after the triumph of our Islamic revolution, we are again facing the same enemies who are now forging the same plots in the same way but from a different position and under different masks. Our enlightened people have once again risen to show their reaction. We think that the stronger this reaction is, the more effective it will be in delivering a powerful blow to the mouth of the enemies and the more clearly it will demonstrate the awareness and intelligence of our people.

But why is the role of Imam Khomeyni so sensitive in our movement and why is the solidarity of all the people and all sections of society with Imam Khomeyni so vital? Seven years after the treacherous coup d'etat of 19 August 1953, the shah's regime remained in power without having any popular base among the people, and each day its alienation from the people grew stronger. This is why in 1960 the U.S. advisers of the regime of the treacherous shah tried to strengthen some groups and classes of people as a base for the shah, and either to suppress others or to attract them through some reforms or promises, and in any case force them to submission. This is how the events of 1960 to 1963 and the so-called white revolution and the valiant struggle of 5 June 1963 [when the first Khomeyni attempt against the shah was suppressed] took place. They gave some promises to the workers and the farmers. The oppressive role of SAVAK and the army was strengthened, and in this way they tried to form the urban middle classes as the supporters of the regime. The regime itself was composed of the dependent domestic and foreign capitalists.

From then on, the shah's regime tried with all its might to strengthen the urban middle class, both from the viewpoint of numbers and quantity as well as from the viewpoint of comfort and cultural facilities. On the one hand, we see that the cities grow very rapidly: In less than 5 years, Tehran's population grew from 1 to 5 million, and the same is true of all other big cities. On the other hand, they used the income from oil mainly to create the means of comfort for these urban people who were imposed upon cities and who formed about 49 percent of the population of Iran. At the same time, they made the urban population the targets of their propaganda attacks and formed them as the first customers of the forcefully imported Western culture which, day and night, was injected into them through colorful publications, radio and television, art festivals and other means. In 1976, they delivered crushing blows upon the armed guerrilla movements and nearly destroyed them both inside and outside the country. They formed the Rastakhiz Party and suppressed every cry of opposition.

According to reports which are not at our disposal, the advisers of the deposed shah had come to the conclusion that they could make the pretense of giving freedom [words indistinct]. They believed that in the absence of organizations and parties which could unify the people and with the faithfulness of the urban middle class to the shah's regime, they could reduce the severity of the police state and oppression.

Without taking into account the role of revolutionary Islam and a detached leader like Imam Khomeyni, their calculations and analysis would, in fact, have been correct. In particular, the absence of any opposition movement and any organization and group which could unify the people had made the shah and the United States the only actors upon the scene which could drag Iranian society in any direction they wished. However, the wakeful and crushing presence of Imam Khomeyni on the scene disrupted all these tricks. Through the adoption of a very decisive and revolutionary stand by Imam Khomeyni, very soon all the shortcomings of the movement were put right.

Imam Khomeyni alone, and with the support and the steadfastness of the religious leaders, not only managed to compensate for all the shortcomings and to create unity of purpose and direction among all sections of society, but even the urban middle class, which according to all the calculations was to remain faithful to the shah's regime, was brought upon the stage and placed face to face with the tyranny and oppression of the regime of the shah.

In this way, the last weapon was taken away from the enemy and our revolutionary movement became such that a unified and harmonized nation rose against a regime which enjoyed the support of all the superpowers in the East and West. It is certain that in such an uprising the final victory belongs to the nation, as we have witnessed.

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON MUSLIM UNITY AGAINST IMPERIALISM

LD171252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The unity of the Muslim nation of Iran in its struggles against the world-devouring imperialism of East and West has opened a new path in front of the lowly nations of the world. Now, the enslaved people throughout the world, from the black inhabitants of Africa to the redskins of America and all the Muslims of the Third World, have started to move so that under the slogan of unity they may destroy the foundations of the order of imperialism which is seemingly strong but which in reality is as weak as a spider's web.

The fearful organizations of the Pentagon, the CIA, Mossad and the KGB realized before anyone else the deep effects of this unity and this new form of struggle which has been inspired by the teachings of Islam. Therefore, they have made use of their minds so that, on the one hand, through their allied mass media in the world they can give a wrong impression of our revolution and, on the other hand, by means of the creation of seemingly national groups and parties they can provide the daily means for disunity and antagonism inside the country.

The complete and limitless freedom which came into being in our country and the kind and gentle features of the leader of the revolution and the members of the Council of Ministers, instead of being a source of praise and gratitude, have become a means of infidelity, and the lackeys of imperialism freely and without restraint indulge in spreading rumors. They say what they like and do whta they can. This misuse of the Islamic feature of the revolution is continued to such an extent that the enemies of the revolution are trying to mislead the very people who in full unity and harmony are walking upon the path of progress and advancement and to spread the seditious viewpoints of the world-devouring imperialism among them. However, they have forgotten that the maturity and awareness of the Iranian nation, and especially the guidance of the leader of our Islamic revolution, will completely nullify these conspiracies, and our nation, as it has repeatedly demonstrated during the past 2 years, once again in this unity march through a harmonious and revolutionary movement will deliver a powerful blow to the hated intelligence and propaganda organizations of the world-devouring imperialism and its agents within the country. God willing, this revolution, this hope of the lowly people of the world, will get richer and stronger every day and will lead the world toward freedom, humanity and justice.

The role of Imam Khomeyni was therefore the role of a leader who united the people, created solidarity among them and eliminated all the differences between individuals and political groups. In one word, Imam Khomeyni was the secret of success and continuity and the binding force behind this movement. Even now it is the same, because all the former weaknesses and shortcomings still exist in our movement. Now we understand why the enemy is concentrating all his efforts on the weakening of this role of Khomeyni. We also understand why the people should wakefully endeavor to strengthen it.

A quick look at the Western press, and even local newspapers, during the revolution and especially after the success of the revolution, proves our point. All the attacks are directed against the person of Imam Khomeyni in order to misrepresent his pure, revolutionary features. They go so far that a few days ago a Western newspaper, referring to the execution of a few immoral women who for many years had misled thousands of girls and led them to a gradual death, wrote that they were the leaders of the movement of the steadfastness of Iranian women against the excesses and oppression by Khomeyni and this is why they were executed. People in the West are fed items such as these daily in all the Western publications and mass media. They are trying to show that Imam Khomeyni not only is not a true revolutionary and the great Islamic leader of Iran, but that on the contrary he is an oppressive dictator and various groups of people have risen against him.

In the same context, the collaborators of the same Western mass media in Iran have started their activities against Khomeyni. We see that these newspapers of various persuasions one day shout for freedom, another day call the traitorous Bakhtiar the most popular prime minister of Iran and on yet another day talk about the opposition of the silent majority. Incidentally, this last term has come straight from the mouth of the CIA and is a term which was for the first time invented by the CIA during the Vietnam war and during the time of the crimes of the United States and the opposition of the people of that country to these crimes. . Although the local press cannot indulge with the same shamelessness as the Western newspapers in misleading our people and, for instance, call an immoral woman the leader of the resistance movement by Iranian women because the people themselves are aware and can see their lies, nevertheless they try to weaken the vital role of Imam Khomeyni as the leader of this great movement through various means and by ingenious tactics and by making use of the mistakes of the period of revolution which are to some extent natural during any revolution, and by exaggerating such mistakes. It is no exaggeration if we say that if this treacherous plot succeeds, as the leaves of a book fall apart if the binding is undone, in the same way our movement will have a similar fate.

It appears that the main aim of all this propaganda is the same urban middle class, and their language is addressed to this class. This is why our urban middle class should be aware and wakeful so that such childish excuses will not separate them from the revolution.

In any case, we believe that today's march, which is being organized by more than 100 groups, parties and organizations, is a very timely and intelligent move for supporting the role of the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and strengthening the bond which exists between all these groups and the imam, and a movement for Imam Khomeyni which should be strengthened even more than before. In the face of this movement by the nation, we believe that our revolutionary government should also complete this movement by further conscious moves; namely, in the face of the poisonous and deceptive propaganda by a large number of servile newspapers and publications. The government should, in full dignity, publish all the relevant documents concerning these publications.

The government should not use force or threats against them and should not close them down, but, relying on the same spirituality which has been the hallmark of our revolution, they should publish the relevant documents. Because our revolution is perhaps the only revolution which after victory has not widely published the documents about the treacherous elements who were the lackeys of the former regime, especially as some of them have now taken up their pens to attack the very roots of our revolution.

We believe that if in response to this movement by the nation the government were to publish the documents about the editor of a newspaper who has been a collaborator of the shah, or a newspaper whose total capital was originally paid by Israel, or other such cases, and officially put such information at the disposal of the people, the people themselves would immediately recognize such newspapers and would not fall into a trap such as the one which was set up in Chile.

In this way, while respecting the freedom of speech which is one of the principles of our revolution, all conspiracies will also be prevented. Two years ago, in an interview which Imam Khomeyni granted to the French newspaper LE MONDE, he rightly said that in the Islamic republic all groups, including the communists and others, are free to express their views even though they may be opposing us. However, all conspiracies will also be decisively prevented.

Therefore, our revolutionary government and our champion nation should be a supporter of this correct and just stand of the imam and while they support freedom of speech and expression and allow all the true and genuine national movements--and not dependent and treacherous movements--to express their views, at the same time they decisively reveal and nullify any conspiracy and treason.

TWO MORE EXECUTED AFTER KHORRAMSHAHR INCIDENT

LD160722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 16 Jul 79 LD

[Text] This morning, two more people who were involved in yesterday's bloody incident in Khorramshahr were executed. The incident resulted in the martyrdom of two guards and five of the Muslim people of this city.

ARMY TROOP CARRIER DESTROYED NEAR KHORRAMSHAHR

LD171258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] An army troop carrier has been destroyed by a mine planted in the road in Sham Khorreh village near Khorramshahr. An informed source in Khorramshahr, reporting this to a PARS correspondent in Ahvaz, said four of the crew members of the vehicle were injured in the explosion and were taken to a hospital. Their condition is said to be satisfactory.

REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS, OTHERS INJURED IN IRANSHAHR ATTACK

LD172025 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] A severe clash took place yesterday afternoon in Iranshahr between Revolutionary Guards and a group of people who attacked them. Three Revolutionary Guards were severely injured by knives and clubs, and two of them are in a very serious condition. Five of the attackers received bullet wounds below the waist and were immediately sent to the city hospital for treatment.

The head of the Revolutionary Committee of Iranshahr, talking on the telephone with a PARS reporter, said: Fortunately, no one was killed and the condition of the attackers who were wounded is improving.

Concerning the reason for this clash, he said: An officer called Mohammad (Arzhang) from Baluchestan, who during the satanic regime served in the gendarmerie in Sari and who fled after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, was arrested yesterday afternoon in his place of birth, Iranshahr, by the Revolutionary Guards. However, on the way, the car carrying the officer was seized. The Revolutionary Guards were involved in an accident and were taken to a hospital. The relatives and agents of the officer, when they heard of the incident, went to the hospital in order to take him away from the hospital, and attacked the Revolutionary Guards stationed around the hospital. Clashes and shootings took place and three guards and five of the attackers were injured.

ONE KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN KHORRAMABAD TRIBAL CLASH

LD172030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Hojjat Ol-Eslam Seyyed Yadollah Sadri, one of the religious figures on the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Khorramabad, told a correspondent of PARS by telephone today: Following the quarrel that took place between the villages of Zarrinabadeh and (Farach) in the district of Zagheh in Khorramabad as a result of tribal differences, one person was killed and a number of others injured. After intervention by religious figures from the Central Committee set by Imam Khomeyni and the local gendarmerie. The situation became calm and those responsible for the incident fled. The gendarmerie officials are trying to chase the killer or killers.

8 KILLED, 18 INJURED IN BANEH BOMB EXPLOSIONS

LD172038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] At 1330 today, as a result of the explosion of a few bombs in Freedom Square in the city of Baneh, eight people were killed and 18 others injured. According to our correspondent in Baneh, a number of the injured who were in a poor condition were sent to Sanandaj in an army helicopter and the rest were taken to the hospital in the city of Baneh. Several shops and buildings in Baneh were destroyed in the explosions. The reason for the explosions and the identification of the perpetrators is being investigated by government officials. According to latest reports, more than ten people have been arrested in connection with this crime.

INA: CLASHES IN EAST AZARBAYJAN TOWN CONTINUE

JN171023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0946 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 17 July--The Iranian newspaper BAMDAD reports that the clashes which broke out between the villagers and the inhabitants of Meshkin Shahr in East Azerbayjan continued today. The paper says that the town's streets are full of wounded people who are not receiving any first aid because there are no means of transport.

BAMDAD says that the Iranian Army, which entered the town yesterday at noon, was unable to stop the clashes.

The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reports that a large fire broke out yesterday in the woods of (Rudak Welshkirk) north of Tehran.

The paper says that the fire lasted 5 hours and was an act of arson. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reports that the authorities arrested six persons on suspicion of being connected with the incident.

NVOI CRITICIZES DRAFT PRESS LAW

TA171143 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 13 Jul 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "A Few Words About the New Press Law"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The new press law has been published and it is expected to be presented to the Government Council for approval on Saturday. It is also expected that after 2 or 3 days' review by the Provisional Government Council, this law will be presented to the Revolutionary Council for final approval.

After the publication of the new press law, Minister of National Guidance Minachi took advantage of the 1-week opportunity that has been granted by the Revolutionary Council to study and review the press law to invite all strata of our homeland's people to present their views regarding this law so that they will be taken into consideration in the final stage.

Among the previous and present primary and serious objections to the new press law is that in its second article six conditions have been set for those permitted to publish a newspaper. Among these is not having served a penal sentence which resulted in being expelled socially and [word indistinct] and being known for integrity, honesty, political probity, a good reputation and moral competence. Contrary to the wishes of the people, nothing is said about which (?regime's) or which system's penal sentences apply in this regard. Regarding the conditions of political probity and moral competence, it must be asked: Which authority is to determine the moral competence and political probity of journalists and newspaper publishers?

According to several articles in the new press law, the Ministry of National Guidance has been given the authority to revoke permission to publish. According to several articles, including Articles 18, 19, 20 and others, there is the pretext of items being harmful and damaging to the Islamic revolution which completely prohibits the press from criticism. In addition, the government is also entirely free to prosecute and even sentence newsmen and journalists.

Another important objection to the press law is the method of arbitrarily choosing a council, which has been left entirely to the government.

In any case, the press law does not truly reflect the spirit of the revolution. One must hope that during the opportunity which exists for the final review of this law, responsible officials will take into consideration the just views and criticisms of the people and of publishers and writers.

NVOI CALLS FOR HARSHER SENTENCES BY REVOLUTIONARY COURTS

TA171342 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 16 Jul 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Revolutionary Courts Should Act With Decisiveness"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The recent extensive activity of the remnants of the former regime, SAVAKists, middlemen and stooges of imperialism has intensified throughout the country. What is more worrisome than anything else is the lack of decisiveness of officials regarding these conspiracies and the lack of decisiveness of the revolutionary courts regarding criminals who participated in various ways in the treachery and crimes of the bloodthirsty regime of the former shah. Although Imam Khomeyni's (? pardon) exempted individuals who had participated in any way in the murder, torture, treason and corruption of the former regime, it is nevertheless recognized that some of those same members of the former regime have escaped the vengeance of the nation by taking refuge behind government officials. The stage has been reached in which in some cases the people themselves have punished these criminals.

Documents and evidence exist which show that recently many of the criminal elements of the former regime are either being freed without trial or are being sentenced to a few months in prison despite all those crimes, murders and treason.

It should be acknowledged that the work of the revolutionary courts in some towns and in many cases has been accomplished with decisiveness and [words indistinct], and members of the revolutionary organizations acted on the basis of justice and revolutionary awareness and responsibility. However, it should not be ignored that recently the work of some revolutionary courts which have handed down doubtful and questionable verdicts is not satisfactory from the people's point of view.

Amid conditions in which foiling and crushing the bloody conspiracies of the counterrevolution, SAVAK agents, stooges of U.S. and Israeli espionage organizations, and remnants of the former regime are an urgent and vital duty of the provisional government of the revolution and of all the national and progressive forces, the lack of decisiveness in the work of the revolutionary courts only benefits the counterrevolution and its (?Western) masters. Revolutionary courts must be strengthened. They must have judges who are honorable, decisive and loyal to the revolution. The revolutionary courts must crush the enemies of freedom and crush the counterrevolution and the havens of its agents.

AFGHANISTAN

PRIME MINISTER AMIN ADDRESSES QANDAHAR TRADERS

Part I

LD141507 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 13 Jul 79 LD

[Part one of "recent" speech by Hafizollah Amin, secretary and member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo and prime minister, to national traders and capital-holders from Qandahar province at the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] With the permission of my comrade in arms, Comrade Ghorbandi, minister for commerce, of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and my very dear and esteemed compatriots first of all, with patriotic feeling I heartily and with great passion welcome you esteemed compatriots. I am proud to welcome you in these palaces which was once the center of tyrannical rule of oppressers, but now we, your servants, as the sincere and faithful servants of toiling people of Afghanistan, welcome you, dear compatriots, here. Dear compatriots, today meeting with you takes place in a special atmosphere and in a special status which in the history of Afghanistan after the Great Sawr Revolution its few days is interesting and worth paying attention because in the history of the world Afghanistan is the first country that since the establishment of revolutionary governments has since the victory of the Sawr Revolution, in a short span of time, fulfilled a great and very wide, full measure and showed to the world that the valorous people of Afghanistan can fulfill a great task in a short time with the hope of better life and with the hope of building the country. And that is the completion of the land reform in Afghanistan 1 year and 2 months after the Sawr Revolution.

The working class and Khalqi regime that have come to Afghanistan is based on the unity and solidarity of the workers, peasants and other toilers of Afghanistan, the national traders and patriotic capital-holders and other toiling patriots of Afghanistan. Those people who seek their comfort in the comfort of others and seek their happiness in the construction of the country constitute the firm foundation of this regime.

Dear compatriots, you should see that in every society there is no greater enemy of the national traders and national capitalists than the feudal lords and imperialists. As the workers and peasants consider the feudal lords and imperialists their enemy, the same way the feudal lords and imperialists are the enemy of the national traders and national capitalists. Studied from the economic, social and philosophical points of view they have always curbed the growth and development of national capitalism and national trade. They let no national trader and national capitalist develop and prosper because they think that they--national capitalists--will gain power in their own country and will take the economic affairs in their own hands and will never permit the aliens to exploit the people. They seek in their country their own interests. They are the real enemy of (?them), but sometimes the enemy succeeds to deceive the sons of this country and show as if the toiling people are their enemy and not the capitalists and imperialists.

As we are attentive to agriculture and want agriculture to develop in our country, so as our toiling peasants get more yields and secure a better life for themselves and have better and more favorable possibilities, the same way we have not ignored the question of development of industry in the country.

We have focused our attention on this sector, too. We have promised all our compatriots that heavy industries and rivers are the natural wealth of Afghanistan. All the reserves hidden underground belong to the people of Afghanistan. We have not only said this at national level, but also announced to all the world that we are going to utilize all our natural wealth, which belongs to all the people in the interests of the people and will channel it for the improvement of the standard of living of the people and construction of the country.

PART II

LD151345 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 14 Jul 79 LD

[Part two of highlight of recent speech by Hafizollah Amin, secretary and members of the Central Committee Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, to the national traders of Qandahar--read by announcer]

[Text] We place all these industries on which the imperialists fix their eyes so as through which they could suck the blood of our toilers and keep them poor, destitute, and with empty stomachs, at the disposal of our national capitalists and national traders, and in the service of our homeland.

For the construction of our homeland we promise all the national capitalists and national traders that their Khalqi state and their workers' regime will allow them not only to act freely in the field of light industry, but will also provide them with all possibilities required and cooperate with them as we have promised at national as well as international levels. The Khalqi regime would provide better grounds for the national capitalists and national traders to get greater benefits as far as possible.

Hafizollah Amin continued: My dear compatriots, we have been left a ruined country. It is not just a backward country that has been fully ruined and disrupted. I regret to say that the country has been ruined. Thus to build it we have compiled the five-year plan. For this purpose peace is an underlying factor. We cannot afford wars. We attach great interest to peace in the region and the world, and we do not want war so that we come around and hand-in-hand build our country with love and patriotic feelings. We have no interest in war. We are the lovers of peace and tranquility. We proudly say there is no country in the world which could outdo us in the love for peace in the region and the world and is more interested than us in it. If we are not the most peaceloving country in the region and the world, yet we are second to none.

Revolution has triumphed here and those two giants have been wiped out here, that is, feudalism and imperialism. Here the toiling people rule supreme and the ways of this revolution have been disseminated everywhere. This is no fault of us. It is our pride that whatever we have promised we are standing beside it with the same conviction, that is, we will not export revolution, as it is a great treason. We will not export revolution and neither believe in it. However, the waves of the revolution [word indistinct] recognize no borders. Wherever we see a toiling people the revolution waves throbbed in their hearts.

It is for this reason that you compatriots see for yourselves that Pushtun and Baluchi brothers speak to us about their afflictions with great interest. They consider our revolution and our country as their own. This country is the common land of all. All the doors of our country are open to our Pushtun and Baluchi brothers. (?Yet) our enemies encourage them to commit aggression against Afghanistan in order to topple the young revolutionary order so that they once again install their puppets. They intend to install their spongers (?and beasts) who used to thrive in the flesh and blood of the toiling people of Afghanistan and used to reap the fruits of the labor of the toilers, having an ostentatious style of living. If such kind of a war is imposed on us or has been imposed on us, we will defend our homeland with all sacrifice and will give such an answer which our history has witnessed. We will give them replies as given by our fathers and forefathers. We will repeat the [words indistinct] which is a terrible sight for us and will leave such a mark which will be a cry of the toilers.

Part III

LD152310 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 15 Jul 79 LD

[Part three of "highlights" of "recent" speech by Hafizollah Amin, secretary and member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo and prime minister, to the national traders from Qandahar province at the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] I have (?described) and you too are aware of it; also our toilers know that all toilers of Pakistan and Iran strongly welcome our revolution. They consider it their own revolution. [words indistinct] I am convinced you know that in Sind and Punjab all the workers and (?peasants) take pride in your revolution. We also (?present) a tide of brotherly feelings to the hard-working brothers of Sind and Punjab and speak to them with great brotherly interest. We bring ourselves closer to them. It is for this reason that those reactionary and feudal elements and puppets of imperialism who have escaped from Afghanistan and [words indistinct]. They are now carrying out propaganda against us that today the property of the people has been confiscated; today their money will be confiscated or their houses; their shops (?this or that) will be confiscated (?today) or tomorrow. However, we have the honor that so far we have proved (?in deeds) and in future, too, we will live as power and [words indistinct] brotherhood hand-in-hand with all our toiling people of the country, with all our compatriots who nourish the desire of prospering their country and create no outward obstacle and use all their means for the building of their country. This is the command of our nature and quality. Thus you compatriots see who obstructs our tranquillity.

The imperialists and the reactionaries do not want us to live in peace. They are our common enemy. You are the best means to the prosperity of the country. You want a decent life (?as well as) for others in the country. You need knowledge and science, because industries cannot be developed without science. There cannot be progress without science. The country is not prosperous without science. The feudals and reactionaries are enemies of science, civilization and humanity. You see for yourselves that today, wherever they go, first of all they burn the centers of knowledge. They, foremost amongst everything, consider the school as their first-degree enemy. They consider the centers of science their enemy and attack them. Wherever they go they kill and tear into bits the children, girls and boys who are the torchbearers of the (?history) of our future and the country. (?Take pride in them.)

They are our common enemy. We have a common front against this enemy. Against the common enemy we attack together. Against the common enemy we stand united. We will not allow the enemy to inflict any such blow which might realize their wishes. They will always see their desires go in vain. They will be able to lay their hands on nothing. They will always be doomed and humiliated and Afghanistan will certainly prosper and will certainly move forward.

Today, you have a great distinction if you really (?think of this). In the past, in the past regimes, if one used to take worthy initiatives, if one used to invest his capital in the building of the homeland or used to establish business in the service of the homeland he was compelled to seek the help of an oppressive Sarder, one of the rulers who [words indistinct]. They used to try above all to determine the percentage of their personal profits. Today, optimum conditions have been provided and (?thus) it is the people, Khalqi. The Khalqi government is yours. You have no need to bow your heads. To a person, you have this honor today, to stand before everybody and you should continue to do so. No one can snatch away this right from you and no one can compel you or force you to do anything. Invest your capital. You can (?continue your) business and develop your industry without the least tension of mind. Those oppressors are no more who had an eye on your profit and had opened their pockets for this purpose.

We are always true to our promises. The test of our (?truthfulness) depends on you. Whenever you want you can test our truthfulness. We give you this promise and are standing before you: That whenever you want you can test us. Not only test us when you want, but it is a humanitarian, Islamic and high nobility (?call) to you that you look after or supervise all our acts. You will be falling short of your responsibility if you do not carefully assess our deeds and look into them carefully.

TARAKI PRESIDES OVER PARTY POLITBURO MEETING 14 JULY

BK141630 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 14 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The Secratariat of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan reports that under the chairmanship of the great leader of the people, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan met today at the house of the people from 1100 to 1300 hours.

At the beginning the great leader of the people gave a brief report to the Political Bureau concerning internal affairs and the international situation. Then the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (?proposed) by unanimous vote matters related to the formation and (?combination) of the branches and commissions of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

REVOLUTION SPOKESMAN ON BATTLES IN COUNTRY

JN171049 Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 July--A spokesman for the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan has stated that the Muslim revolutionaries have in recent battles destroyed the Sang tunnel which links the Afghan capital with the Soviet Union and obstructed traffic in it.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, the spokesman said this 2 km-long tunnel was used by the Afghan Government for receiving the necessary military reinforcements.

The spokesman said that the revolutionaries attacked the village of (Badshah) near Kabul international airport on Thursday to destroy the airport, but a government force used hand-grenades and tanks against the revolutionaries and foiled the attack. The spokesman pointed out that this is the second attempt by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in the past 2 weeks to destroy Kabul airport.

Islamic Leader Interviewed

JN131201 Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Dubai, 13 July--Dr Borhaneddin Rabbani, head of the Afghan Islamic society, which is waging a liberation war in Afghanistan against Mohammad Nur Taraki's government, has warned the Islamic governments and nations about the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan, describing it as a challenge to Islamic civilization and existence in the Indian Ocean and gulf areas.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Dubai, Dr Rabbani said that the Islamic governments and nations should carry out their duty toward the Afghan people who are threatened with a war of annihilation. He said that these governments should sever their relations with Taraki's government.

Dr Rabbani, who is visiting the UAE, appealed to the nonalined countries to expel Taraki's government from the nonalined movement.

Speaking about the Afghan liberation movement's relations with Pakistan, Dr Rabbani said: Our revolution is purely Afghan and Islamic. Pakistan has not given us any aid except for some humanitarian aid to the Afghan refugees.

On relations with the Iranian Government, the head of the Afghan Islamic society said: There have been no official contacts with Iran to date. We would like our relations with the new Islamic government in Iran to be strong. We are linked to Iran by bonds of neighborliness, religion and destiny. We will seek to contact the Iranian Government to gain its support and backing because it is effective.

Dr Rabbani added that the Iranian people and government have begun to sympathize with the Islamic Afghan people. He praised statements in this connection by Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni and Iranian officials who stressed that there should be no Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

DEPUTY PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES 5-YEAR PLAN

LD170912 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0202 GMT 17 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Kabul--The main task of Afghanistan's 5-year plan (1979-83), the basic points of which have already been confirmed, is the all-round, proportional development of the economy. This was stated by Deputy Planning Minister F.M. Tarin in an ADN interview in Kabul. According to him, the plan comprises about 25 major projects. These include the development of textile factories and bakeries, as well as plants for processing hides, cleansing cotton and producing plant oils. As far as the transport system is concerned, it is planned to construct five airports and to expand the international airport in Kabul.

One of the most important projects is to open up the large copper deposits. The tapping of other raw materials, such as the high-grade iron ore deposits, is still too costly for the country at present and would necessitate corresponding transport routes into the country's least accessible mountain areas, stated Tarin.

According to the minister, Afghanistan's industrial production is to be increased 1.6-fold and agricultural production 60-fold during the 5-year plan. Ninety-seven percent of the investments are earmarked for the state sector. Tarin stressed that the government is paying special attention to expanding the state sector. At the same time, however, it is planned to develop private small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as crafts, which at present are still meeting the population's most important needs.

Tarin drew attention to the close relations existing between Afghanistan and the socialist states, especially the USSR, including in the economic field. He expressed the conviction that these relations, which are already a valuable help in carrying out the economic tasks, would strengthen even further in the future.

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ZIA RETURNS FROM FAO CONFERENCE

BK161713 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 16 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Dacca, 16 July (AFP)--President Ziaur Rahman returned here today from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) conference in Rome saying that international agencies had assured greater help and assistance to Bangladesh in rural and agricultural development and in doubling food production.

President Zia who addressed the Rome conference on agrarian reforms and rural development on Saturday, as one of four invited world heads of state, said that the conference had recognised Bangladesh's approach and strategy on rural development and food production.

He told newsmen on arrival from the 9-day conference that in Rome he had "constructive talks" with the leader of the U.S. delegation, Andrew Young, on bilateral economic cooperation. "We expect to get more American aid in future", he added.

President Zia declined to make any comment on the resignation of Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai who paid an official visit to Dacca last April.

On the home front, he called upon all political parties to cooperate with the government in "the national interest" for solution of pressing problems like rural development and production of more food grain. He denied rumours that he was going to reshuffle his cabinet.

INDIA

PRESIDENT REDDY MAY CALL MID-TERM ELECTIONS

BK171615 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 17 July (AFP)--The choice of a new prime minister to replace octogenarian Morarji Desai continued to elude political parties here today amidst indications that President Sanjiva Reddy might take steps to dissolve Parliament and call for a mid-term poll.

Sources close to Mr Reddy said that he had given the potential candidates till Thursday [19 July] morning to produce their lists which would show that a stable government to replace the 27-month-old Janata administration could be evolved.

Mr Reddy has now met almost all political leaders and obtained a fair knowledge of the strength of each faction and sized up the possibility of installing a coalition government in the country.

There was less activity in the camp of former Deputy Premier Charan Singh this morning, which indicated that the 77-year-old peasant leader was running into fresh difficulties to rally majority support among the parliamentary factions. At the last reports he had been promised support only by about 220 of the members, far short of the absolute majority of 270 in the 538-member house.

Till this morning it had looked as though the prospects of Mr Singh, a bitter enemy of Mr Desai, were bright as his supporters insisted he had the support of over 300 MPs.

At the same time, the chances of outgoing Deputy Premier Jagjivan Ram began to improve amidst reports that Mr Desai might finally agree to step down from the leadership of the Janata Party in favour of the former.

Mr Ram, 71, prominent leader of the 80 million Harijans (untouchables), had a 20-minute meeting with Mr Desai this morning. On his return from the meeting a number of Janata leaders conferred with him. A spokesman for the group said, "We are assessing the possibilities of providing a 'very stable' government to the country in the shortest possible time."

The spokesman would not disclose what transpired at the Desai-Ram meeting, but informed sources said that Mr Desai could be expected to announce his decision to relinquish the party post at the party's scheduled meeting tomorrow.

The spokesman also said that a large number of Janata members had written to Mr Desai asking him to give up the party leadership.

Desai Not To Resign

BK171250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Here is a flash: The prime minister's meeting with the president lasted an hour. Later talking to newsmen, Mr Desai declined to divulge what he had discussed with Mr Sanjiva Reddy. He said that he has convened a meeting of the Janata Parliamentary Party tomorrow, but it is not electing a new leader. He added that he is not resigning the leadership of the parliamentary party.

Desai Meets Reddy

BK171251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Intense political activity continued in Delhi on the formation of a new government at the center. Prime Minister Morarji Desai called on President Sanjiva Reddy this evening after the meeting of the union Cabinet.

Earlier, Mr Jagjivan Ram met Mr Morarji Desai at his residence for about 20 minutes. Mr Jagjivan Ram had also conferred with a number of other Janata leaders including Prof Mandhu Dandavate, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Mohan Dharia, Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder and the secretary of the Janata Parliamentary Party, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi.

Later Dr Joshi told newsmen that they are assessing the possibility of providing a stable government in the shortest possible time. He said the Janata Parliamentary Party will meet tomorrow at 1700 hours. Mr L.K. Advani and Mr H.N. Bahuguna had telephonic talks with Mr Jagjivan Ram.

Socialist Group Confident

BK171626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The erstwhile socialist group in the Janata Party has expressed confidence that a stable government will be formed under the Janata Party leadership. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today a spokesman of the group claimed that the Akali Dal, All-India Anna DMK and a number of independent members are supporting the Janata Party. He felt that because of differences in the Congress Party on the question of supporting Mr Charan Singh, many members who had left the Janata Party would reconsider their earlier decision.

Chandra Shekhar Statement

BK171633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Janata Party President Chandra Shekhar has said that no stable government can be formed without the Janata Party. He told the AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent today that attempts are being made to form such a government. He claimed that [19-member] All-India Anna DMK, [9-member] Akali Dal and 10 other independents are supporting the Janata Party. It needs a few more to have an absolute majority, he said.

Congress MPs Divided

BK171639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Congress members of the Lok Sabha are divided on the question of supporting Mr Charan Singh in the formation of a new government at the center. The matter was discussed by Congress President Swaran Singh and Congress Parliamentary Party leader Y.B. Chavan when they met their party MPs in groups today. The Congress working committee also discussed the question inconclusively.

Some members are understood to have said that the party should support Mr Jagjivan Ram in becoming the prime minister. They seemed to have argued that it should not take a rigid stand on the Jana Sangh issue.

Briefing newsmen, Mr Swaran Singh said the working committee will meet again tomorrow as all the members could not express their views at today's meeting. He admitted that the MPs whom he and Mr Chavan met expressed different opinions on whether the Congress should extend support to Mr Charan Singh from outside or share power with him.

Desai Redistributes Portfolios

BK180700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, has directed that decisions laying down policies should not be taken until a new government is formed. Projects involving large expenditures or major administrative and executive responsibilities should not be put up. The prime minister added, at the same time work should not be held up. Urgent issues should be put up to the minister in charge or the Cabinet.

Mr Desai has asked his caretaker cabinet colleagues to look after some more ministries in addition to their work. This has the approval of the president. Accordingly, the energy minister, Mr Ramachandran, will also look after steel and mines; the commerce minister, Mr Mohan Dharia, industry; and the labor minister, Mr Ravindra Varma, petroleum and chemicals. The home minister, Mr Patel, has the added responsibility of finance; tourism and civil aviation has been given to Mr L.K. Advani Advani and health to Dr P.D. Chunder.

Dharia Letter

BK180941 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 79 BK

[Text] In a letter to Mr Desai this morning, Mr Mohan Dharia said the current crisis appears to defy all solutions and a continued impasse will only aggravate the situation. He said during the last 2 or 3 days various attempts to form an alternative government based on innumerable combinations have proved unsuccessful. He added he was convinced that if the Janata Party stood united and accepted Mr Jagjivan Ram as the leader it may be possible for it to muster the support of about 280 members within a few hours.

He appealed to Mr Desai to take the necessary initiative in this regard.

About 100 MPs are understood to be having a luncheon meeting at Mr Jagjivan Ram's residence today to discuss the leadership question. They include a number of ministers and party leaders.

Our correspondent says so much importance is being attached to the meeting because of the fact that Mr Morarji Desai has announced that he will not resign from the leadership of the party in the midst of intense canvasing by some supporters of Mr Jagjivan Ram to elect him as the new leader. The name of the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, is being mentioned as a likely contender for the post if Mr Desai is ultimately pursuaded to resign.

Emergency Meeting

BK180943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 79 BK

[Text] An emergency meeting of the executive of the Janata Parliamentary Party was held at the residence of Mr Desai this morning. According to the party secretary, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, it discussed the latest political situation. The meeting, which lasted for an hour, was convened at the request of Mr L.K. Advani. Twenty-two members attended.

In reply to a question, Dr Joshi said the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, was not present, but he conveyed his views to the executives.

VAJPAYEE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL 17 JULY

BK171307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee was admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences this afternoon following complaint by him of giddiness and acute nausea. According to the medical superintendent of the hospital, Dr R.C. Sinha, Mr Vajpayee has been kept under observation in the intensive care unit of the hospital. According to Dr Sinha, there is no cause of anxiety.

Condition Improved

BK180938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The general condition of the external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is better today. He was admitted to the intensive care unit of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi yesterday following a chest pain. A spokesman said his chest pain has subsided, and he had breakfast this morning. Mr Vajpayee is to remain in the hospital for some time more. He has been advised complete rest.

The vice president, Mr Jatti, went to see Mr Vajpayee in the hospital this morning.

BRIEFS

CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO AFGHANISTAN--An Indian firm has entered into a consultancy contract with the Ministry of Water and Power of Afghanistan for preparing the feasibility study of a multipurpose project. It envisages construction of a high-arch dam for water storage and power plants. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO SFRY--Ashoke Sen Chib, Ambassador of India to Cairo, has been appointed ambassador of India to Yugoslavia in succession to Natrajan Krishnan. Chib is expected to take up his assignment shortly. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1448 GMT 11 Jul 79 BK]

FOOD EXPORTS--The food corporation of India has so far exported 750,000 tons of wheat and rice to the Soviet Union, Vietnam and Bangladesh. A press release issued in Madras today says wheat exports to the Soviet Union so far are about 550,000 tons and another 80,000 are in the process of being exported. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK]

SATELLITE PROBLEMS--New Delhi, 17 July (AFP)--The latest attempt to turn on the television cameras of India's second satellite for earth observations, "Bhaskara", made during the third week of this month was unsuccessful. An official press release issued by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Bangalore, south India, today said the problem with the TV cameras constituted a setback in the Bhaskara mission. The Bhaskara was launched from a Soviet cosmodrome early last month. The ISRO release said the turning on of the TV system, for reasons as yet not understood, resulted in a large scale electrical disturbance on board the spacecraft. The project team therefore switched off the TV cameras and in subsequent orbits brought the spacecraft back to normal health, thus enabling further continuance of the rest of the experiments, the release added. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK]

PAKISTAN

CABINET REVIEWS REPATRIATION OF NON-BENGALIS

BK160339 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK

[Excerpts] Shari'at [Islamic] courts have been formed in all the provinces. This information was given by the provincial governor to the federal cabinet at its meeting in Rawalpindi today. The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, presided.

The federal cabinet reviewed the progress of the repatriation and rehabiliation of non-Bengalis from Bangladesh. The Cabinet was informed that 1,740 non-Bengalis reached Karachi on the 3d of this month, while the second batch is due to arrive in Pakistan on the 22d of this month. In all there would be two sailings before Hajj and three afterward to transport repatriates from Bangladesh to Pakistan. In addition to transportation by sea, 5,500 persons will be airlifted under arrangements made by the UN High Commission for Refugees before mid-August and the end of November this year. The whole operation both by sea and air is expected to be completed in the next 6 months.

SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORTS OF IMPENDING RUPEE DEVALUATION

BK151720 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today categorically contradicted a press report speculating that the Pakistan Government will shortly announce devaluation of the rupee. He said the report was totally baseless and mischievous.

The spokesman added that the government took strong exception to the circulation of such mischievous reports which could only harm the country's economy.

BRIEFS

CSSR TRADE ACCORD--Pakistan and Czechoslovakia have signed a trade protocol envisaging a trade turnover of $27 million up to 31 December next year. This shows an increase of 68 percent over the previous protocol. Under the protocol the exports from Pakistan will include raw cotton, cotton textiles, cotton yarn, hosiery, readymade garments, leather and leather products. Imports from Czechoslovakia include insecticides, fertilisers, transformers, grid station equipment and road-building machinery. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Jul 79 BK]

THAI DOUBLE TAXATION ACCORD--Pakistan and Thailand have signed an agreement for avoidance of double taxation. The agreement was signed in Islamabad 14 July. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK]

NAVY CHIEF RETURNS--Navy Chief Vice Admiral Karamat Rahman Niazi returned to Karachi 14 July after a 7-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK]

SRI LANKA

BANDARANAIKE READY TO JOIN TALKS ON TAMIL ISSUE

BK151207 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The former prime minister of Sri Lanka, Mrs Bandaranaike has said that her party is willing to participate in an all-party conference to resolve the problems of the Tamil minority. The leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, who is also the leader of the opposition in Parliament, has already indicated his party's willingness for a negotiated settlement of the problems of the Tamils.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka President Mr Jayewerdene has appointed Brig (T. Rao Viratunga), the army's chief of staff, as commander of the security force and directed him to eliminate terrorism from the country before the end of the year.

Earlier this weekend the government clamped a curfew in the predominantly Tamil-speaking Jaffna district following a wave of terrorism by a group demanding a separate independent state of the Tamil minority. But the government has said it will never concede to their demand.

Prime Minister, Opposition Urge Peace

BK171157 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa and the opposition and TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leader, Mr A. Amirthalingam have jointly appealed to the public to maintain calm and poise and to refrain from being influenced by rumors.

A statement issued jointly by the two leaders yesterday called upon all members of Parliament and all political, religious and social service organizations to use their influence in quashing rumors and protecting the property and lives of innocent citizens.

Mr Premadasa and Mr Amirthalingam pledged that they would take on themselves for the responsibility for maintaining communal harmony and providing protection to all citizens. The two leaders emphasized that problems could be solved in a peaceful and amicable manner and appealed to all against violence. The said: We as a civilized people have the capacity to solve our common problems peacefully and to show the rest of the world that issues can be resolved in keeping with the tradition of our great religion.

PREMADASA HOSTS BANQUET FOR CUBA'S RODRIGUEZ

BK131335 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, has said that nonalinement is not merely a political philosophy for us in Sri Lanka stemming out of the need to steer clear of all power blocs, but is actually a way of life that is deeply rooted in our religious and cultural tradition.'

Speaking at a banquet held in honor of Dr Carlos Rodriguez, vice president of the Republic of Cuba, last night, Mr Premadasa pointed out that nonalinement to us in Sri Lanka is merely a manifestation in the field of international politics of an attitude of mind having its root in our religious and cultural tradition. Sri Lanka considers that to achieve a state of balance in the context of rivalry between powers would be one of the main tasks of the nonalinement movement in the future. He assured whatever assistance the Sri Lanka Government can give to Cuban President Dr Castro to make the next summit meeting in Havana a success.

Hameed Receives Rodriguez

BK151610 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 14 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, held discussions with the Cuban vice president, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, in Colombo this afternoon.

The discussions were held shortly after Mr Hameed's return from official visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

The Cuban leader was hosted to dinner by the foreign minister this evening. Dr Rodriguez is due to leave the island in a short while.

Rodriguez Speaks

BK151211 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Cuban Vice President Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez yesterday refuted allegations by Western countries and reaffirmed that Cuba, the future chairman of the nonalined movement, had not the slightest intention of altering the principles of nonalinement.

Addressing a news conference, the visiting Cuban vice president pointed out that since its inception the nonalined movement had taken an anti-imperialist and anti-racist stand and called on the movement to observe nonalined principles in their totality.

Dr Rodriguez said the Havana summit would be the reaffirmation of the principles of nonalinement and accused some interested international political circles--above all, the United States--of spreading fears and deliberately distoring Cuba's position on this matter.

The vice president said the other topics at the Havana summit would be the question of peace and detente, the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and the agression against Mozambique, Angola and Zambia by the present government in Rhodesia.

Asked about a question on Kampuchea representation, the Cuban vice president said that this was a matter for the movement to decide and that Cuba was consulting other members in this regard. Cuba, he said, was in favor of democratizing the decision-making process of the movement and, at the same time, strengthening the role of the Coordinating Bureau, perhaps even by moderately expanding its membership.

Vice President Departs

BK161129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, held discussions with the Cuban vice president, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, in Colombo yesterday. The discussions were held shortly after Mr Hameed returned from an official visit to the Democratic Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of China.

The Cuban leader was hosted to dinner by the foreign minister last evening.

Doctor Rodriguez left the island last night.